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## PROLOGUE:

**YEARS AGO, A BATTLE BETWEEN ROBOT AND MUTANTS IGNITED A CATAclySMIC EXPLOSION THAT DESTROYED AN ORBITING OBSERVATORY.\***

**MASTER MOLD WAS  
NO ORDINARY ROBOT!  
HE WAS CREATED TO  
PURSUE AND DESTROY  
SUPER-HUMAN MUTANTS.**

**AND, THOUGH NEARLY DESTROYED, MASTER MOLD SURVIVED... WITH ALL OF LANG'S KNOWLEDGE, HIS INTELLIGENCE, HIS OBSESSIONS, HIS HATRED, AND HIS SECRET!**

FOR A WHILE HE TUMBLED  
IN A DECAYING ORBIT--  
A MASS OF GLOWING SLAG.  
AND EVENTUALLY HE FELL  
TO EARTH...

\*IN HULK  
ANNUAL\* 7.  
808

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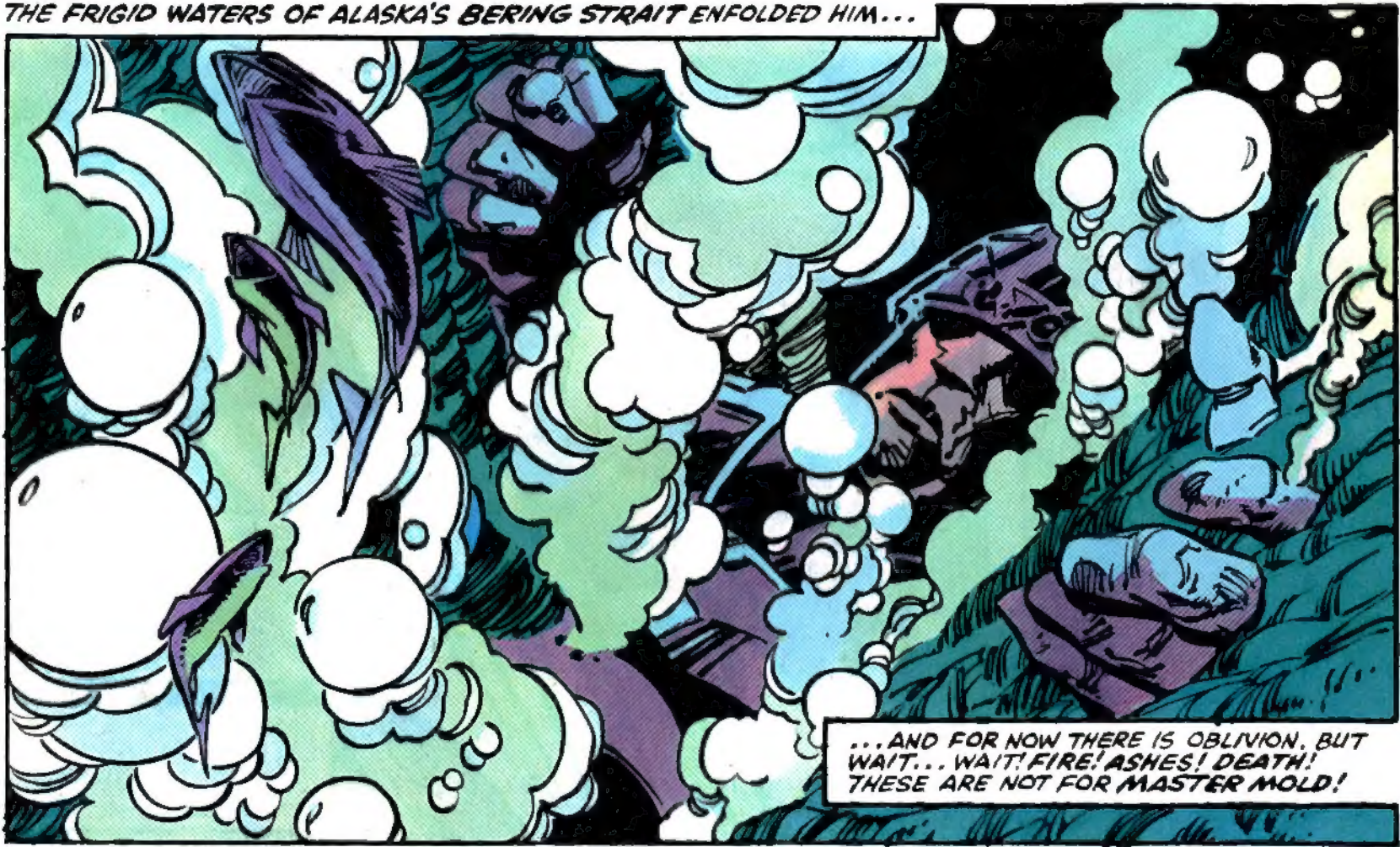
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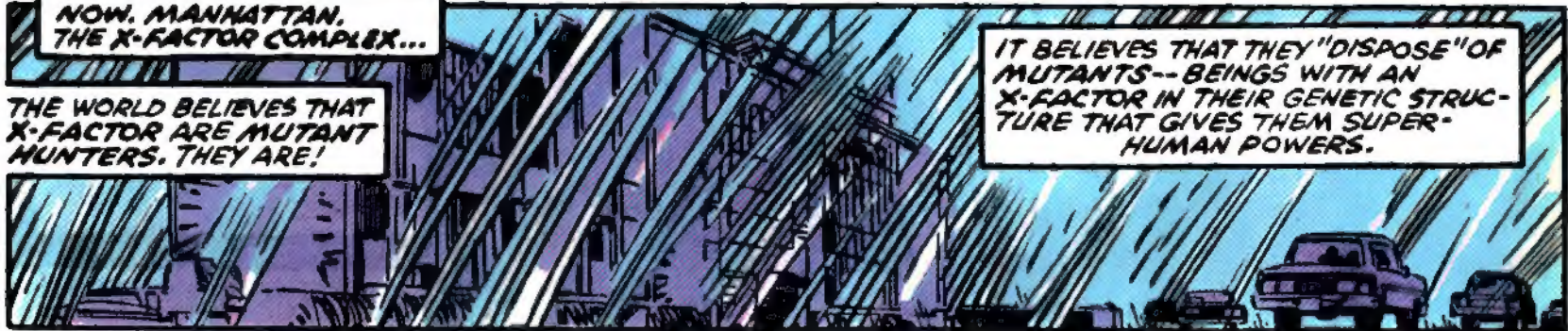


THE FRIGID WATERS OF ALASKA'S BERING STRAIT ENFOLDED HIM...



...AND FOR NOW THERE IS OBLIVION, BUT WAIT... WAIT! FIRE! ASHES! DEATH! THESE ARE NOT FOR MASTER MOLD!

NOW, MANHATTAN, THE X-FACTOR COMPLEX...



THE WORLD BELIEVES THAT X-FACTOR ARE MUTANT HUNTERS. THEY ARE!

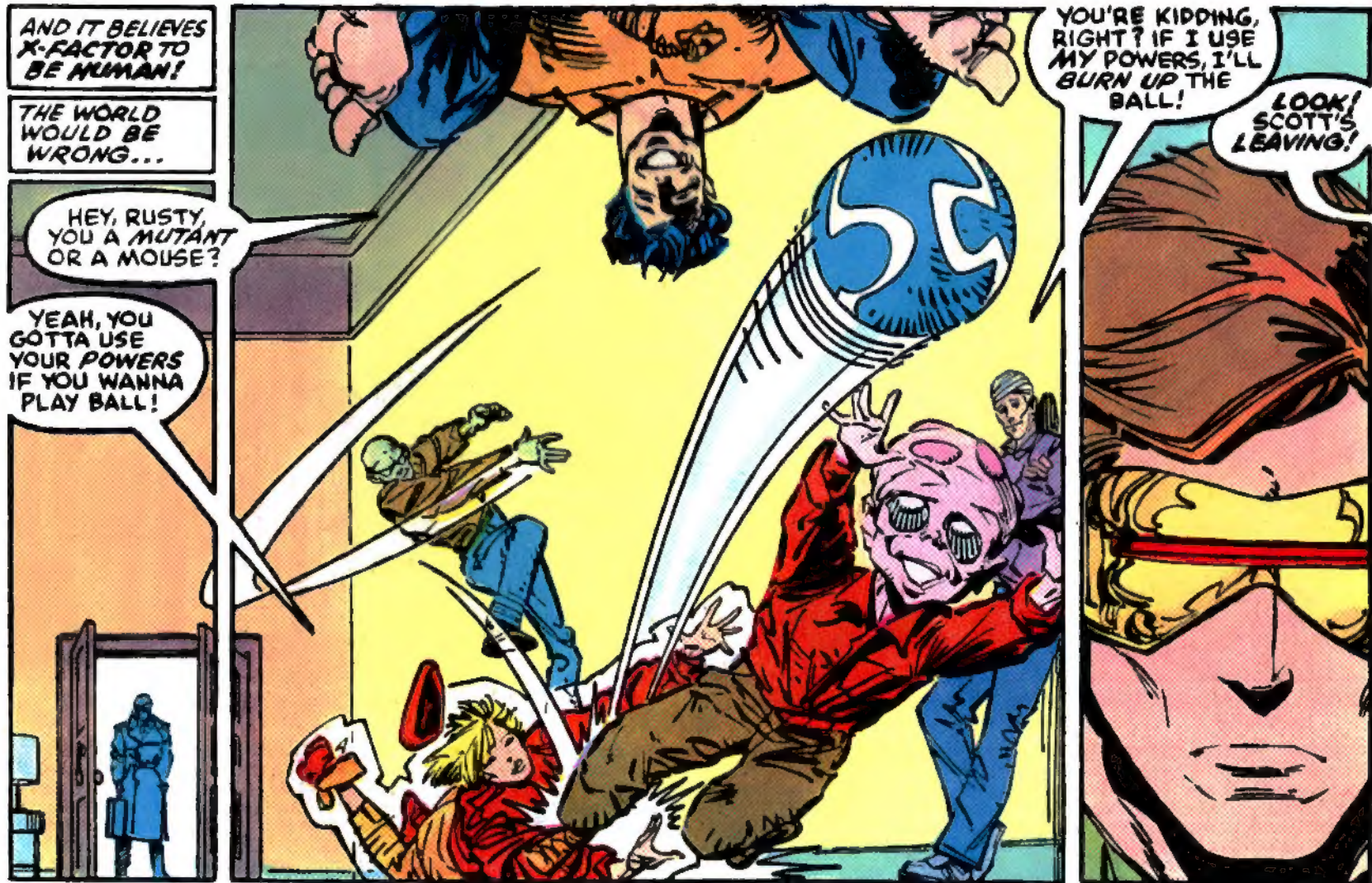
IT BELIEVES THAT THEY "DISPOSE" OF MUTANTS-- BEINGS WITH AN X-FACTOR IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM SUPER-HUMAN POWERS.

AND IT BELIEVES X-FACTOR TO BE HUMAN!

THE WORLD WOULD BE WRONG...

HEY, RUSTY, YOU A MUTANT OR A MOUSE?

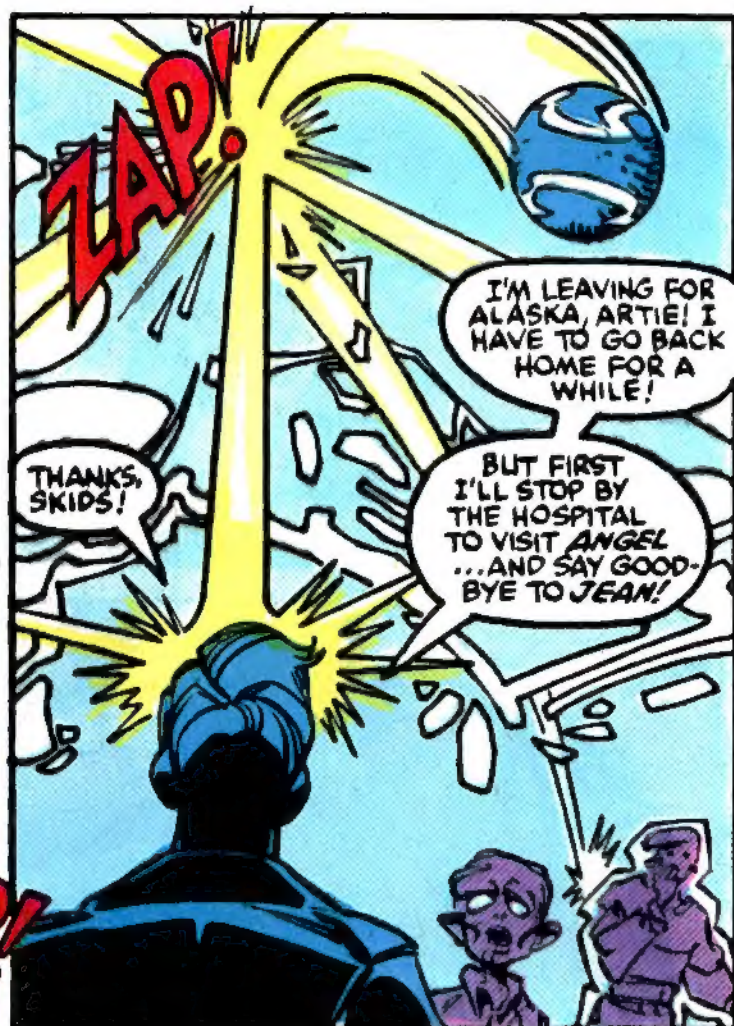
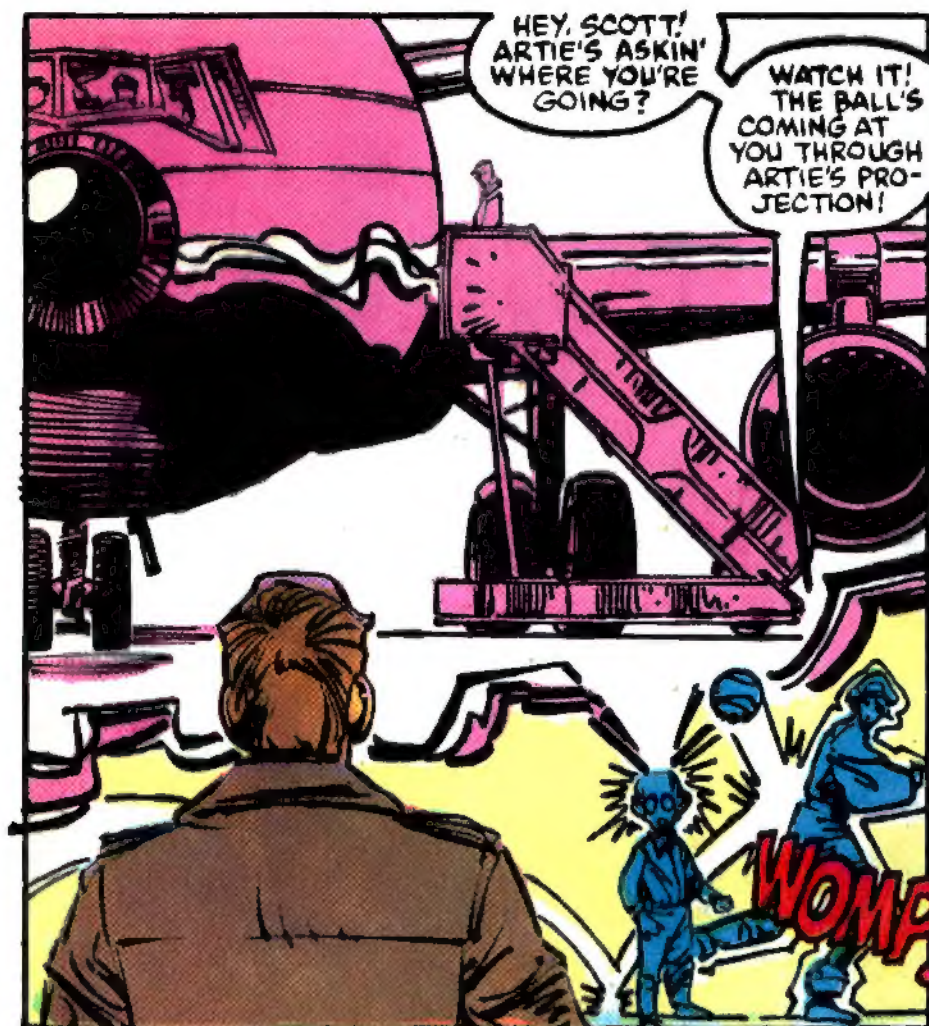
YEAH, YOU GOTTA USE YOUR POWERS IF YOU WANNA PLAY BALL!



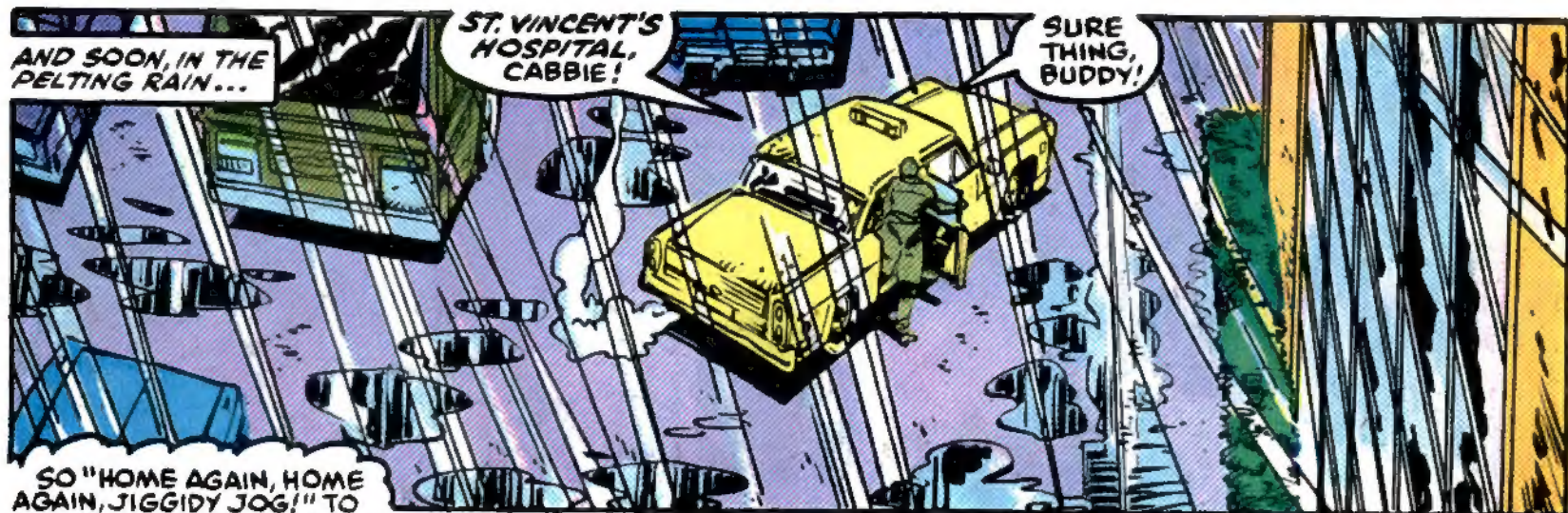
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? IF I USE MY POWERS, I'LL BURN UP THE BALL!

LOOK! SCOTT'S LEAVING!







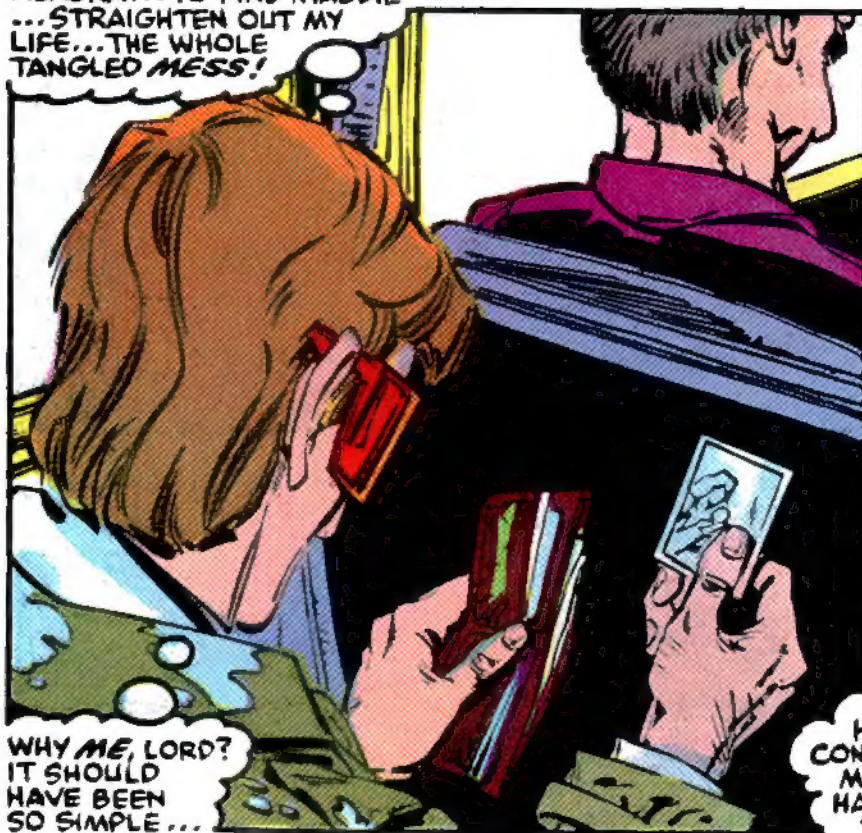


AND SOON, IN THE  
PELTING RAIN...

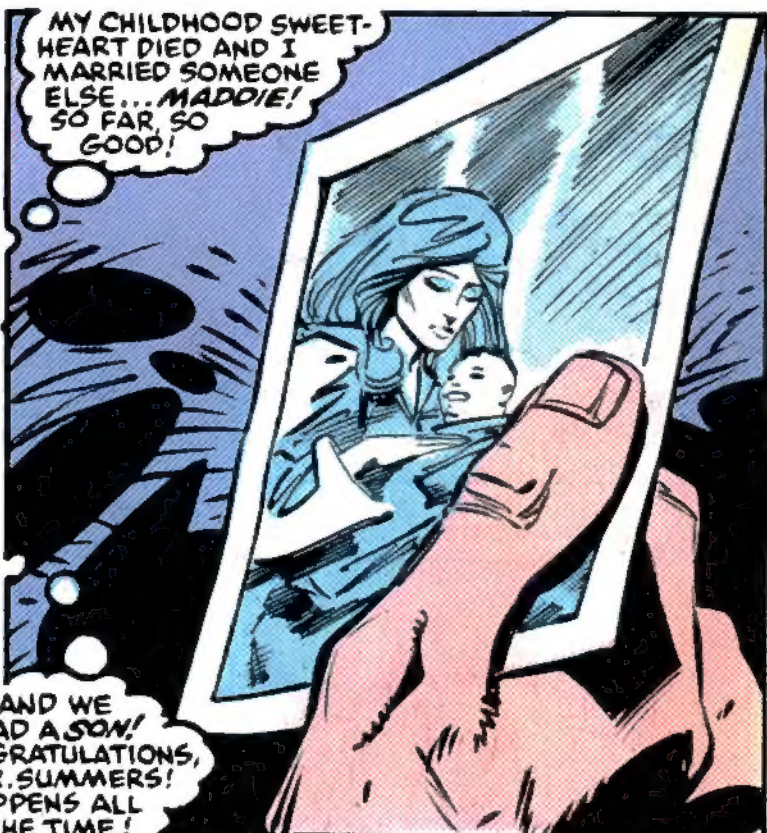
ST. VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL,  
CABBIE!

SURE  
THING,  
BUDDY!

SO "HOME AGAIN, HOME  
AGAIN, JIGGIDY JOG!" TO  
ALASKA... TO FIND MADDIE  
... STRAIGHTEN OUT MY  
LIFE... THE WHOLE  
TANGLED MESS!



WHY ME, LORD?  
IT SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
SO SIMPLE...



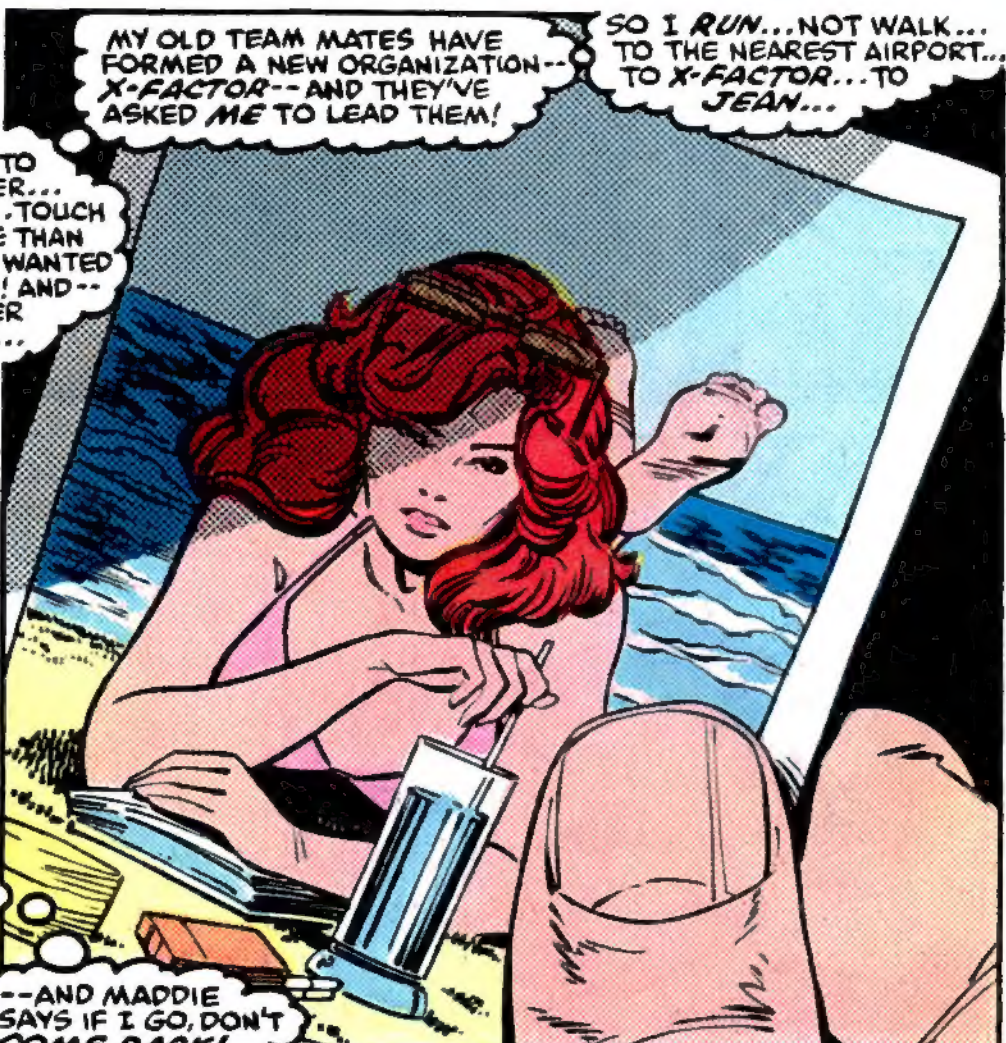
MY CHILDHOOD SWEET-  
HEART DIED AND I  
MARRIED SOMEONE  
ELSE... MADDIE!  
SO FAR, SO  
GOOD!

AND WE  
HAD A SON!  
CONGRATULATIONS,  
MR. SUMMERS!  
HAPPENS ALL  
THE TIME!



BUT MY CHILDHOOD  
SWEETHEART RETURNS  
AND I GET A CALL--  
SURPRISE, JEAN ISN'T  
DEAD, AFTER ALL!

I WANT TO  
GO TO HER...  
SEE HER... TOUCH  
HER! MORE THAN  
I'VE EVER WANTED  
ANYTHING! AND--  
ANOTHER  
LURE...

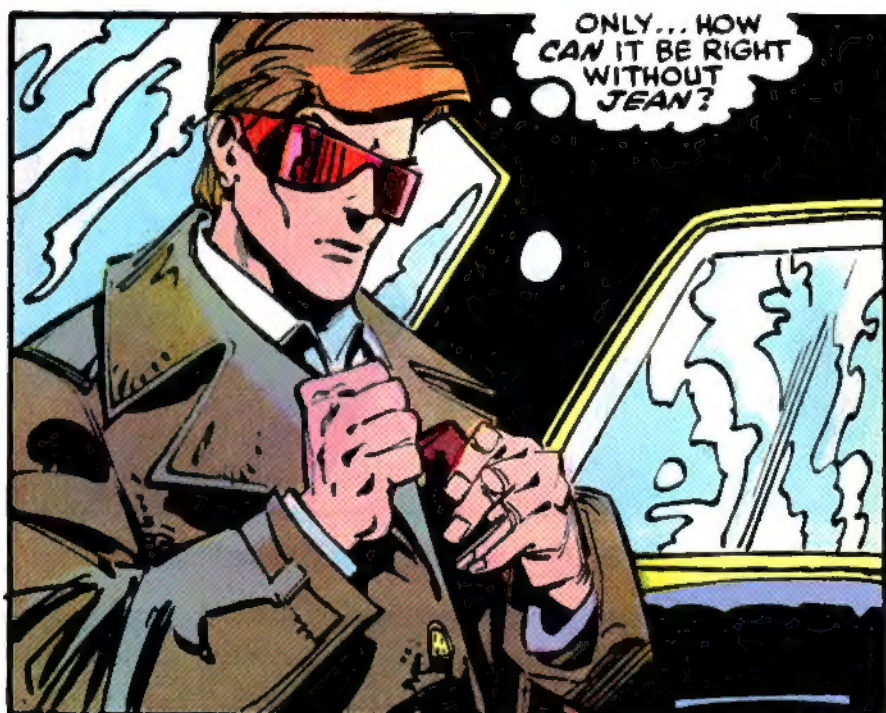
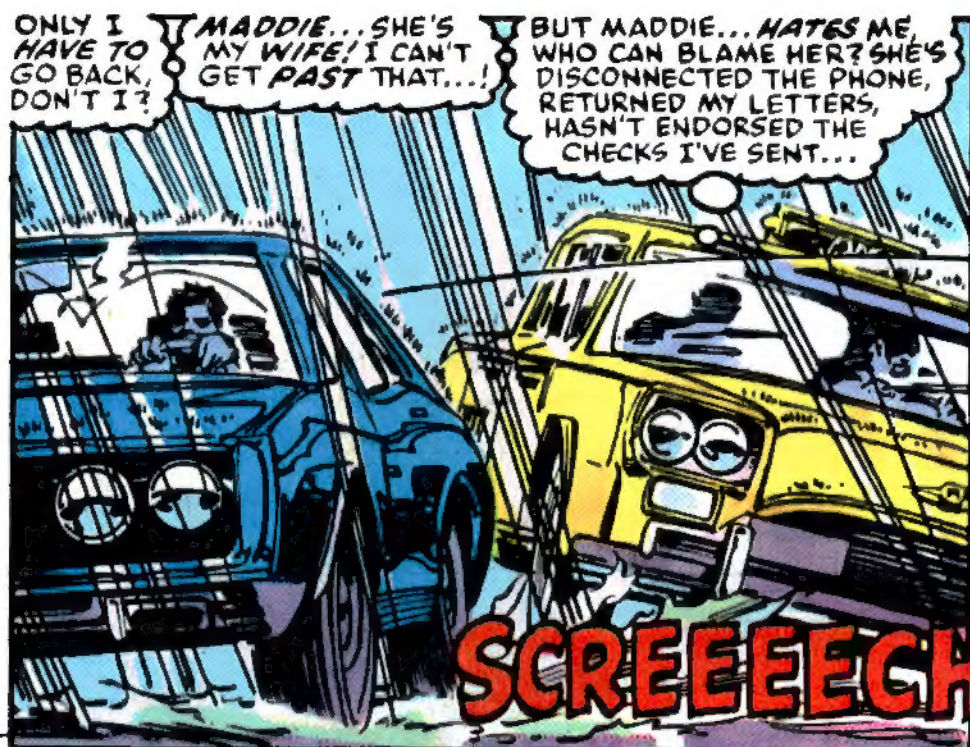


MY OLD TEAM MATES HAVE  
FORMED A NEW ORGANIZATION--  
X-FACTOR-- AND THEY'VE  
ASKED ME TO LEAD THEM!

SO I RUN... NOT WALK...  
TO THE NEAREST AIRPORT...  
TO X-FACTOR... TO  
JEAN...

--AND MADDIE  
SAYS IF I GO, DON'T  
COME BACK!







ST. VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL...

...CANDY SAID  
MY MUTANT  
POWER IS TO  
MAKE MEN FALL  
IN LOVE WITH  
ME AND THEN  
DESTROY THEM!

AND ALL ALONG  
I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE A MERE  
TELEKINETIC!

LISTEN TO ME, JEANIE!  
CANDY WAS ANGRY! SHE  
MISUNDERSTOOD WHEN  
SHE SAW US TOGETHER!

SHE WAS  
UPSET... THAT'S  
ALL! SHE HASN'T  
EVEN VISITED ME  
HERE! SHE MUST  
KNOW... IT'S BEEN  
IN THE NEWS!

AND WHAT  
SHE SAID...  
IT ISN'T  
TRUE!

NOT TRUE--? LOOK  
AT SCOTT... WHAT'S  
HAPPENED TO HIM  
BECAUSE OF ME!

I'VE KNOWN HIM...  
LOVED HIM SINCE WE  
WERE CHILDREN! THIS  
THING WITH ME AND  
MADDIE... IT'S TEARING  
HIM APART!

YOU KNOW  
WHAT? I'M GLAD  
HE'S GOING TO  
HER!

AND  
YOU...

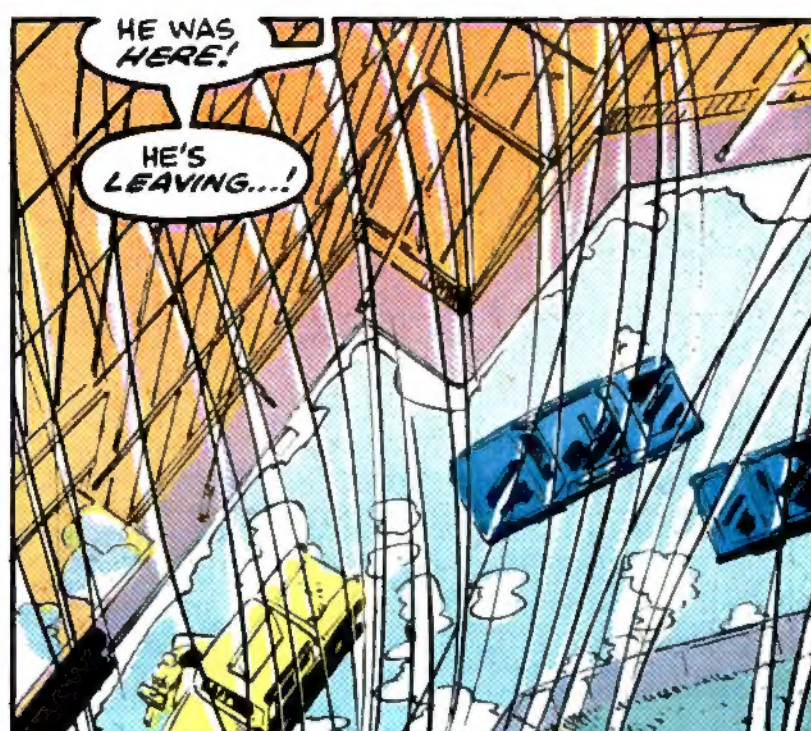
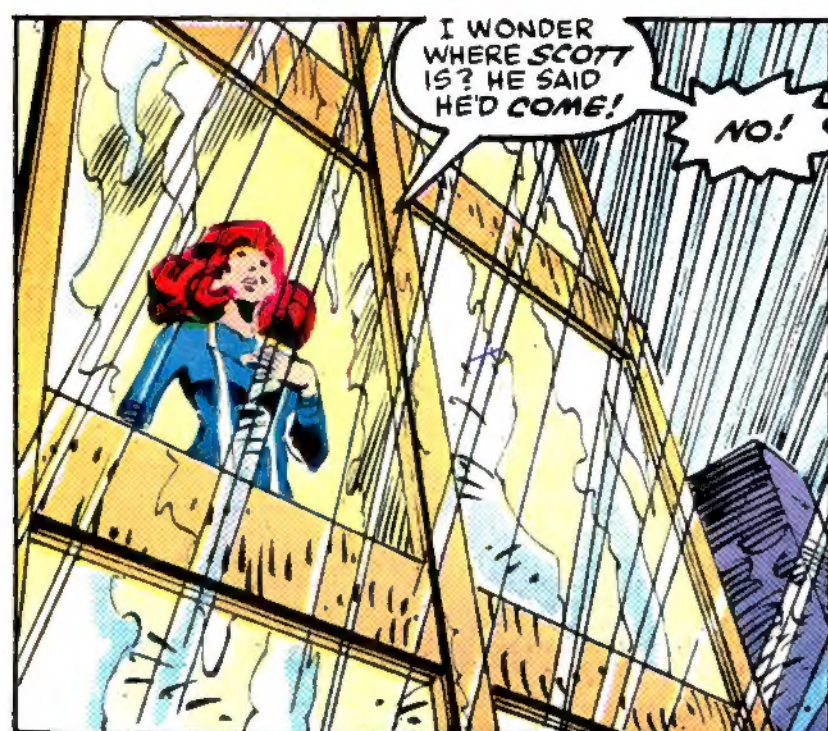
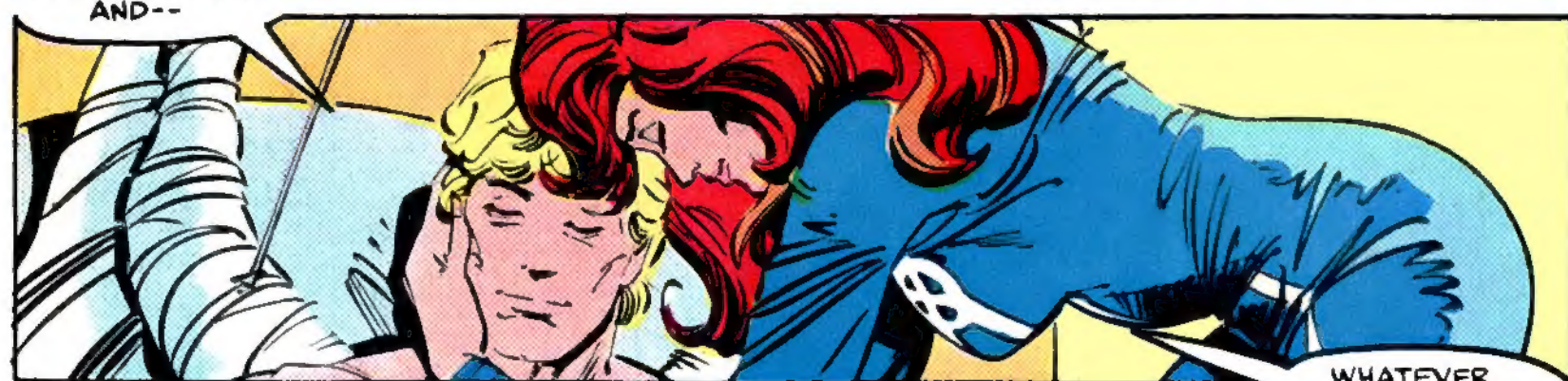
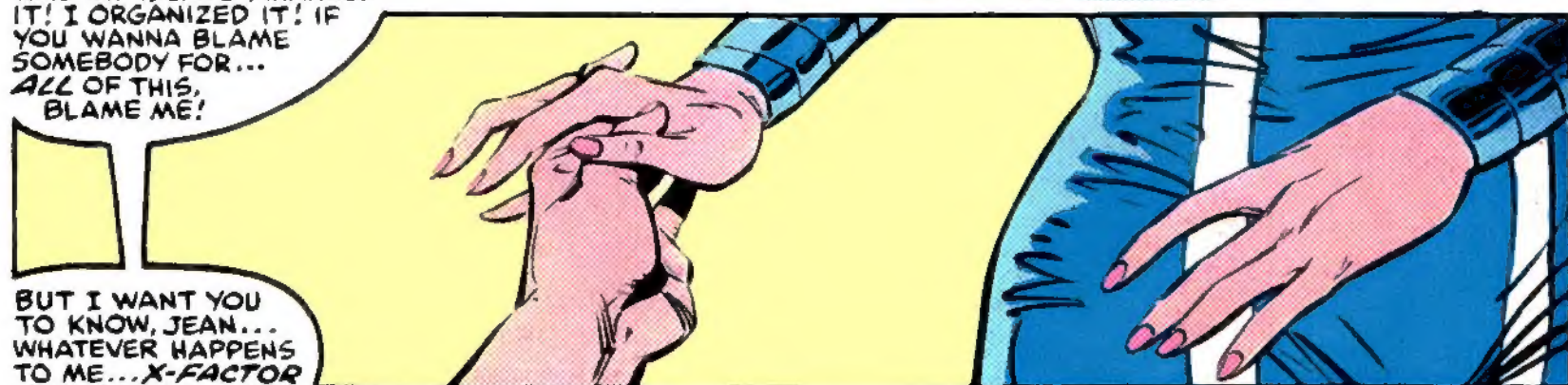
ME? I'M A MESS,  
TOO, RIGHT? AND  
IT'S ALL YOUR  
FAULT?

YOUR WINGS...  
WARREN, I KNOW  
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO  
LOSE PART OF YOUR-  
SELF! I'M TELEKINETIC,  
YEAH, BUT I USED TO  
BE A TELEPATH, TOO  
REMEMBER?

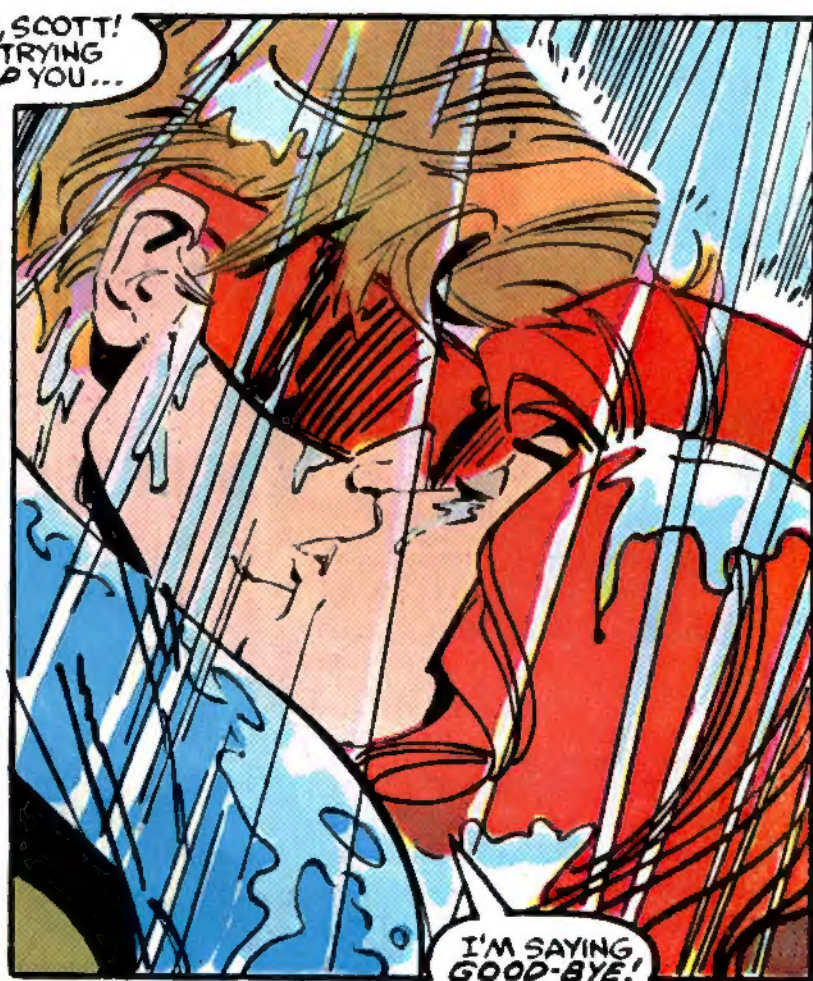
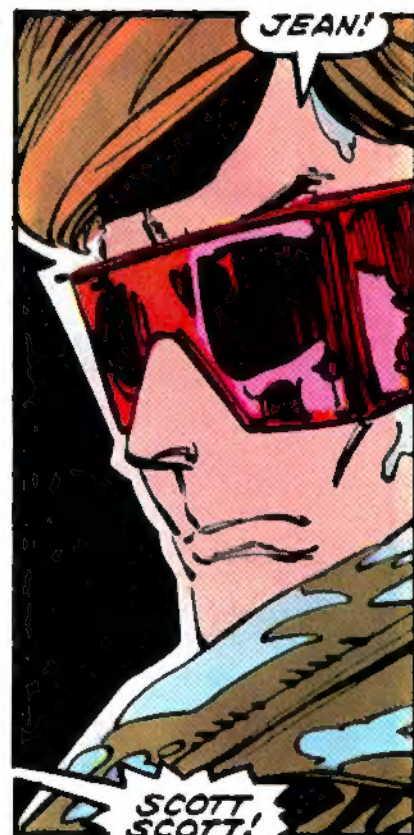
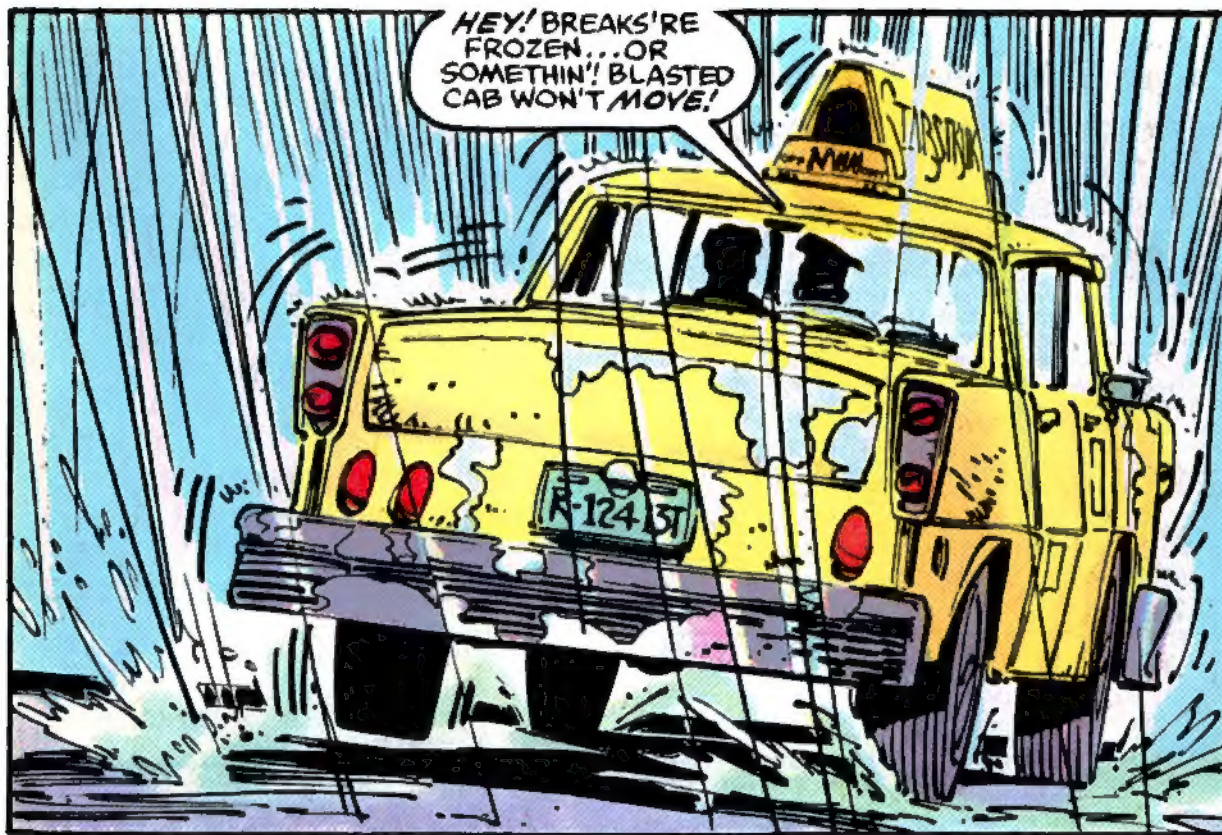
AND NOBODY SEEMS  
TO CARE!

I CARE!



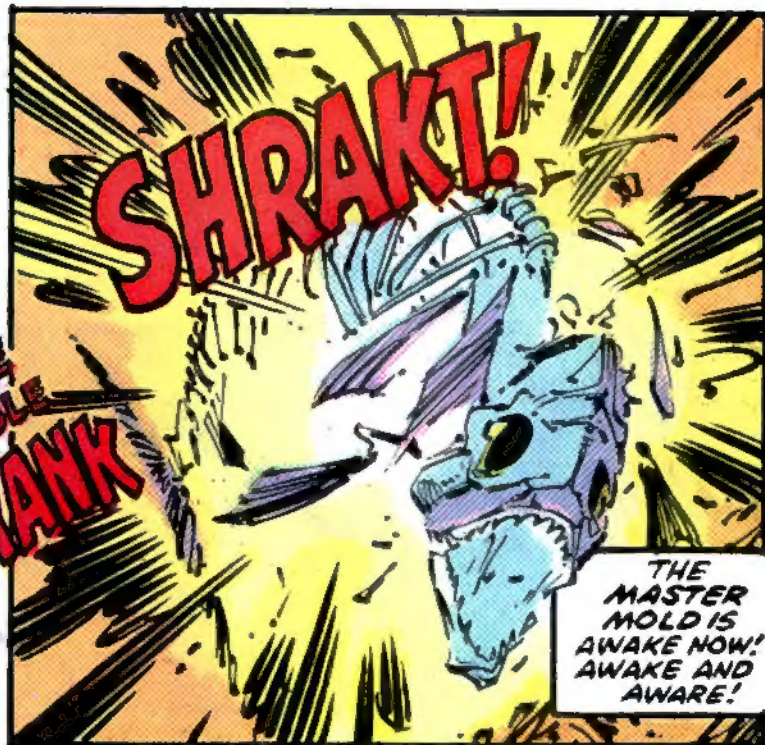








WHILE IN THE ALASKAN WATERS...

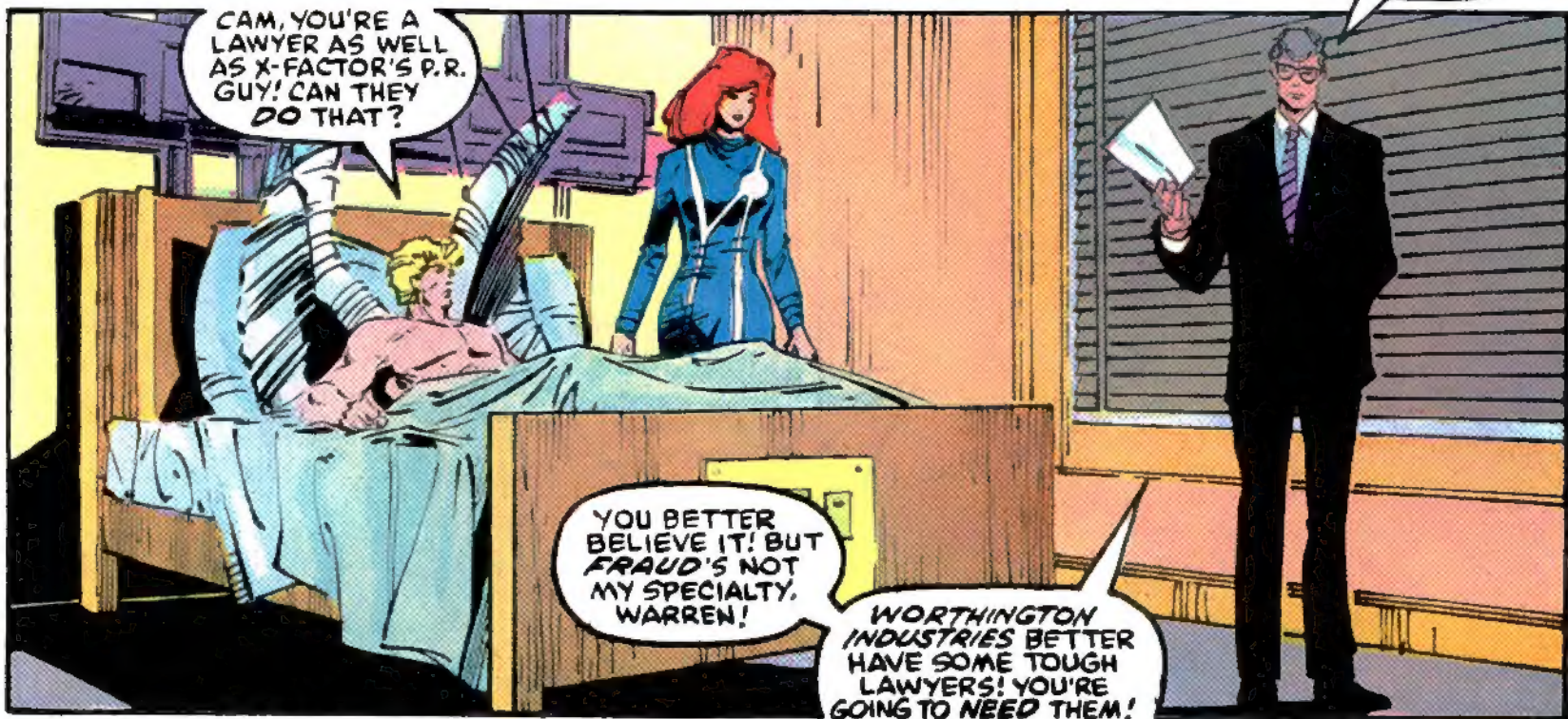


MANY OF HIS MEMORY CHIPS WERE DESTROYED IN HIS FALL! BUT HE KNOWS AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS TO!

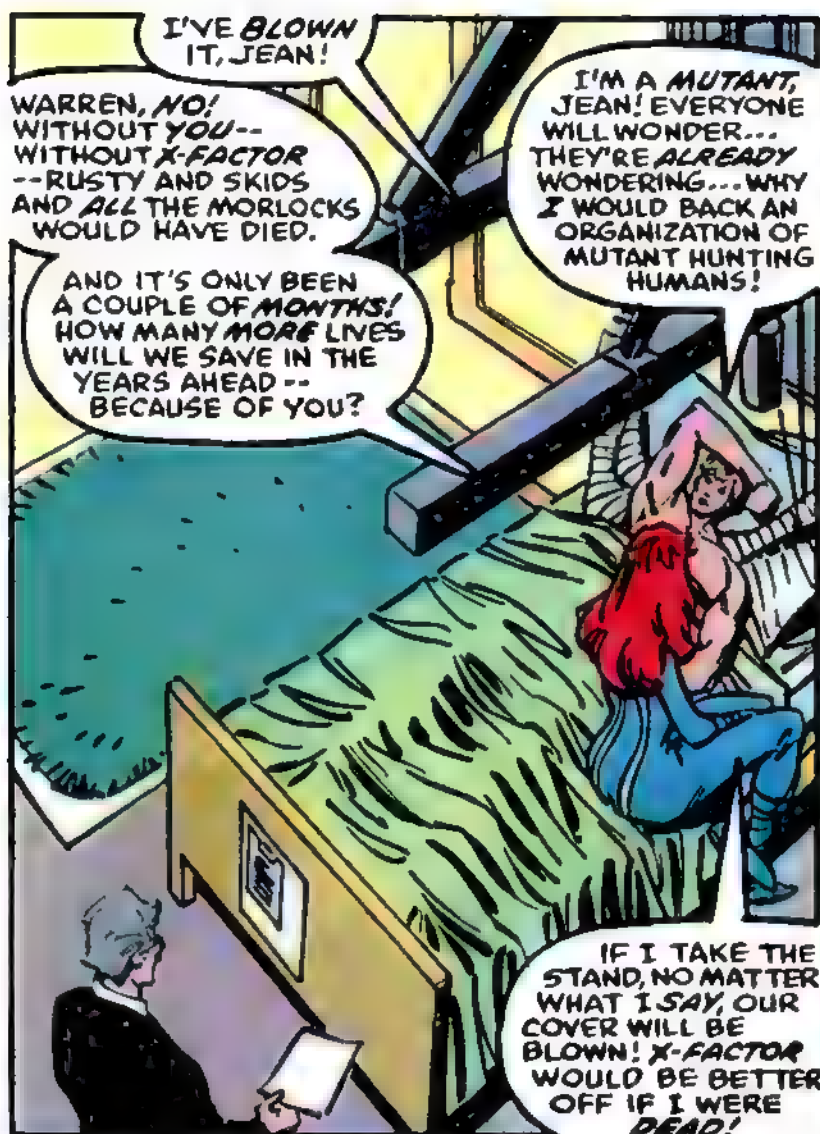
HE KNOWS THE SECRET! THAT AND HIS HATRED! FOR NOW, THEY WILL BE ENOUGH!



AND, AS SCOTT SOARS OVER MANHATTAN ON HIS WAY TO ANCHORAGE, IN THE HOSPITAL BELOW...







I'VE BLOWN IT, JEAN!

WARREN, NO! WITHOUT YOU-- WITHOUT X-FACTOR --RUSTY AND SKIDS AND ALL THE MORLOCKS WOULD HAVE DIED.

AND IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE OF MONTHS! HOW MANY MORE LIVES WILL WE SAVE IN THE YEARS AHEAD -- BECAUSE OF YOU?

I'M A MUTANT, JEAN! EVERYONE WILL WONDER... THEY'RE ALREADY WONDERING... WHY I WOULD BACK AN ORGANIZATION OF MUTANT HUNTING HUMANS!

IF I TAKE THE STAND, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, OUR COVER WILL BE BLOWN! X-FACTOR WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF I WERE DEAD!

HOURS LATER, NEAR ANCHORAGE, ALASKA...

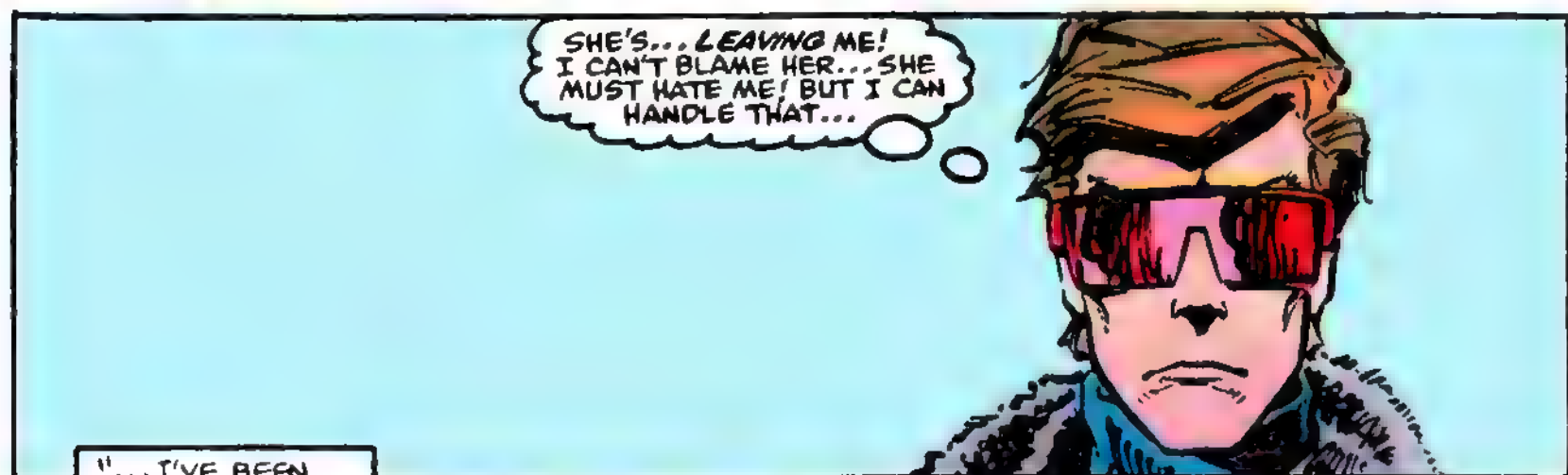
FAR FROM MUTANTS AND MUTANT HUNTERS! GOOD TO BE AWAY FROM THAT MADNESS... IF ONLY FOR A WHILE!

I'D RATHER FACE MARAUDERS, THOUGH, THAN MADDIE... BUT SHE'LL UNDERSTAND... I'LL MAKE HER UNDERSTAND, AND...



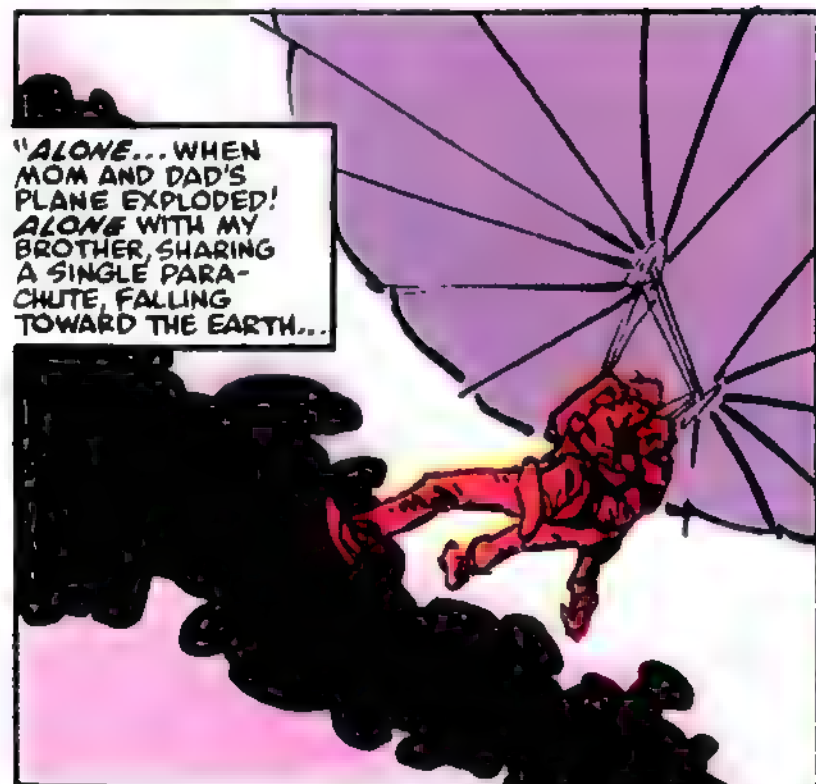
FOR SALE

WILSON



SHE'S... LEAVING ME! I CAN'T BLAME HER... SHE MUST HATE ME! BUT I CAN HANDLE THAT...

"...I'VE BEEN ALONE BEFORE...

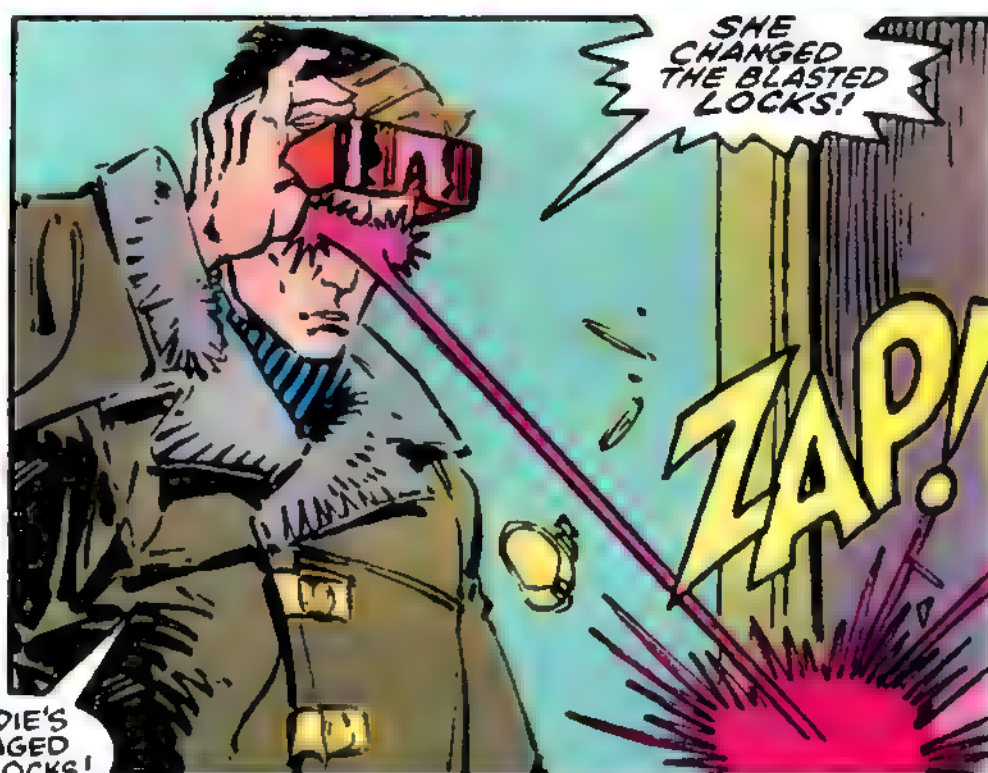
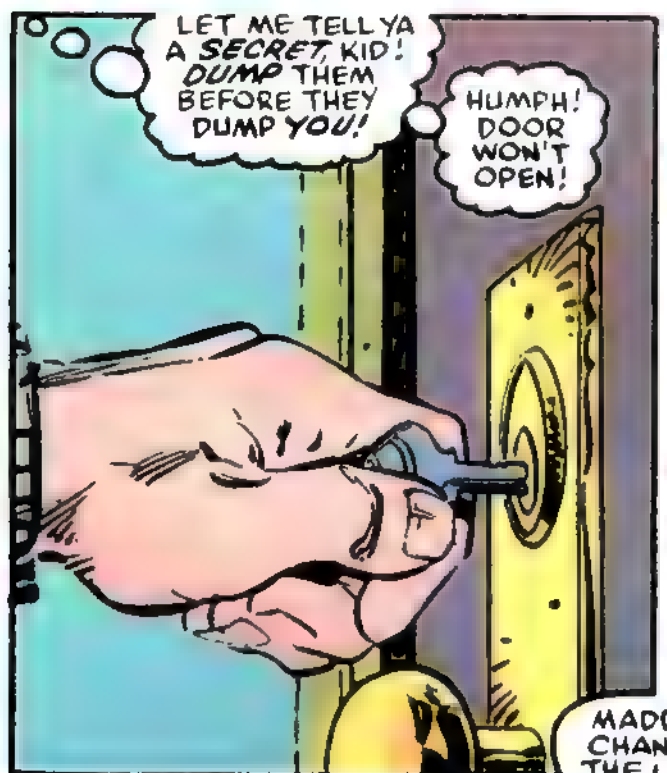
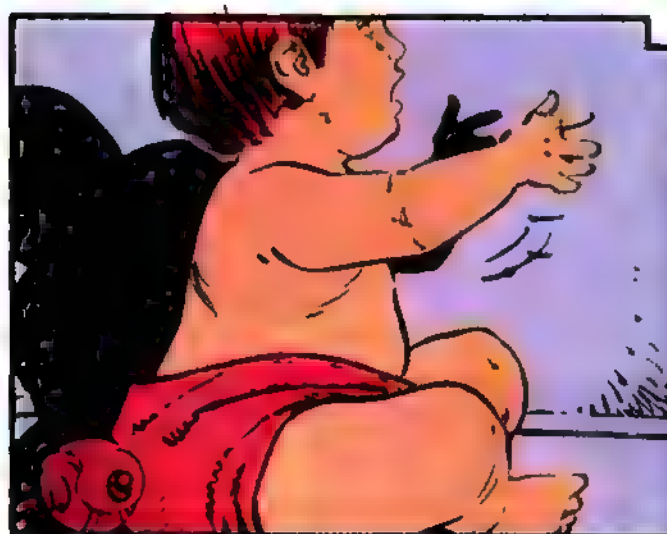
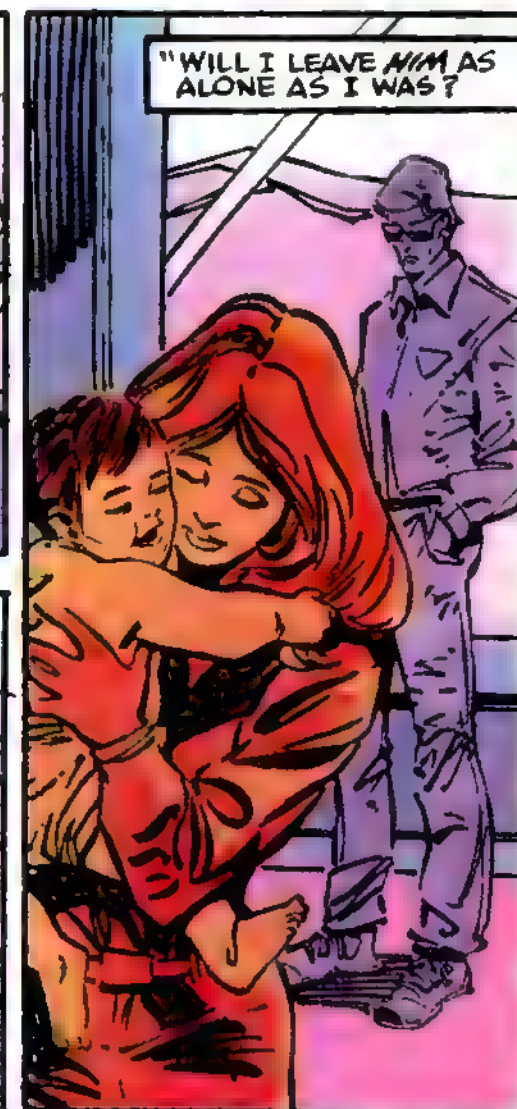
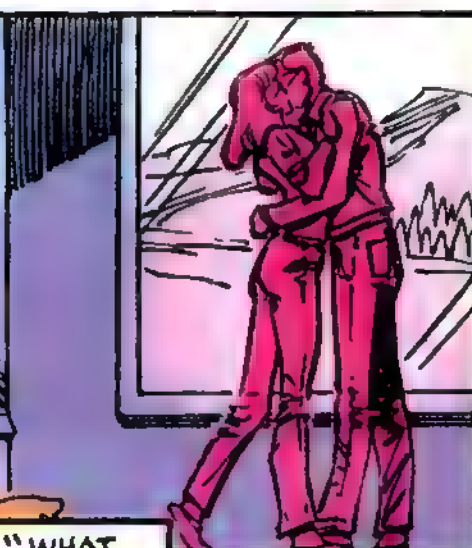
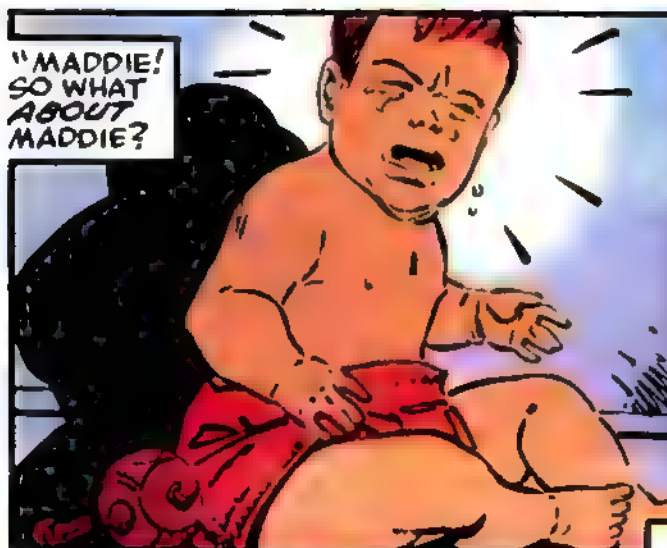
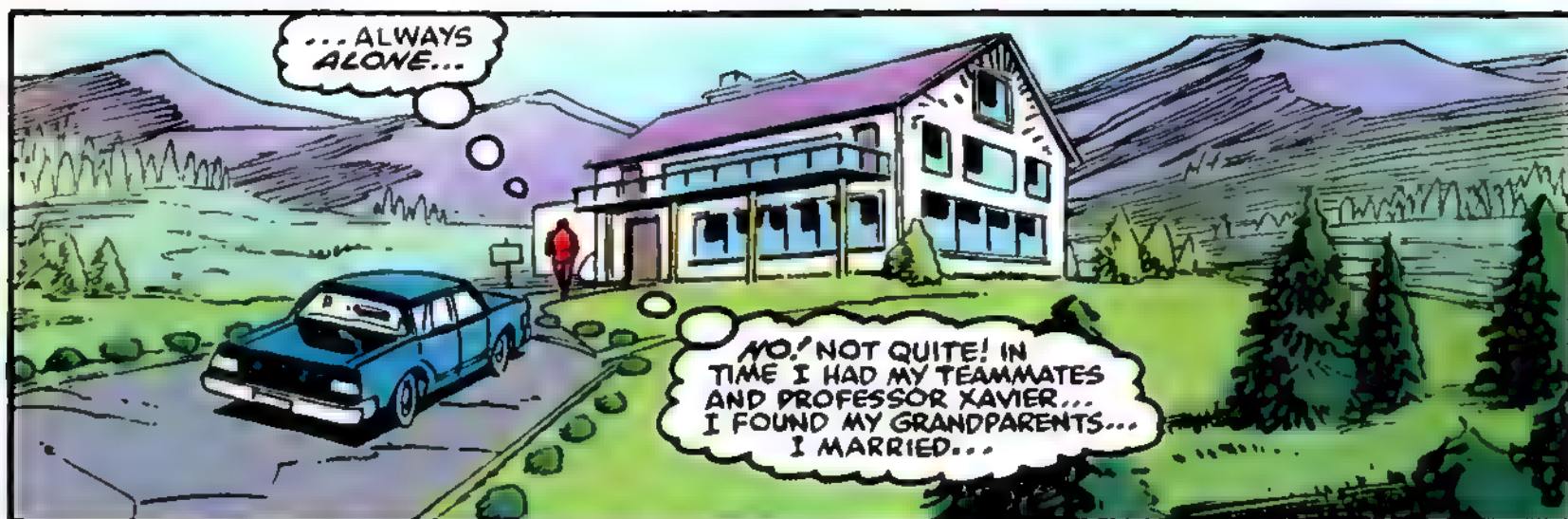


"ALONE... WHEN MOM AND DAD'S PLANE EXPLODED! ALONE WITH MY BROTHER, SHARING A SINGLE PARACHUTE, FALLING TOWARD THE EARTH...



"ALONE WHEN MY BROTHER WAS ADOPTED AWAY FROM ME! ALONE AT THE ORPHANAGE..."







WHILE OFF THE COAST  
OF ALASKA...

BLIP

BLIP

PING

BLIP

BLIP

BLIP

CLICK!

A MUTANT HAS USED  
HIS POWER, POWER  
SO INTENSE THAT  
EVEN THE MASTER  
MOLD'S DAMAGED  
RECEPTORS REGISTER  
IT.

HE COMPARES IT TO HIS SCANNER PROFILES AND HE KNOWS!

THAT MUTANT IS PART OF THE  
SECRET! HE'S ONE OF THE  
TWELVE! ONE OF THE STRONG!  
A PIVOTAL MUTANT AROUND  
WHOM OTHERS WILL GATHER!

ONE OF THOSE THE MASTER  
MOLD WAS CREATED TO  
DESTROY!

MADDIE?

MAD--!

GONE! EMPTY! LIKE JEAN'S  
SISTER'S HOUSE! \*

WAS  
MADDIE,  
ALSO, DRIVEN  
OFF BY  
THREATS?

\*DESTROYED  
LAST ISSUE!

WHY DIDN'T  
SHE CALL  
ME? WHY?

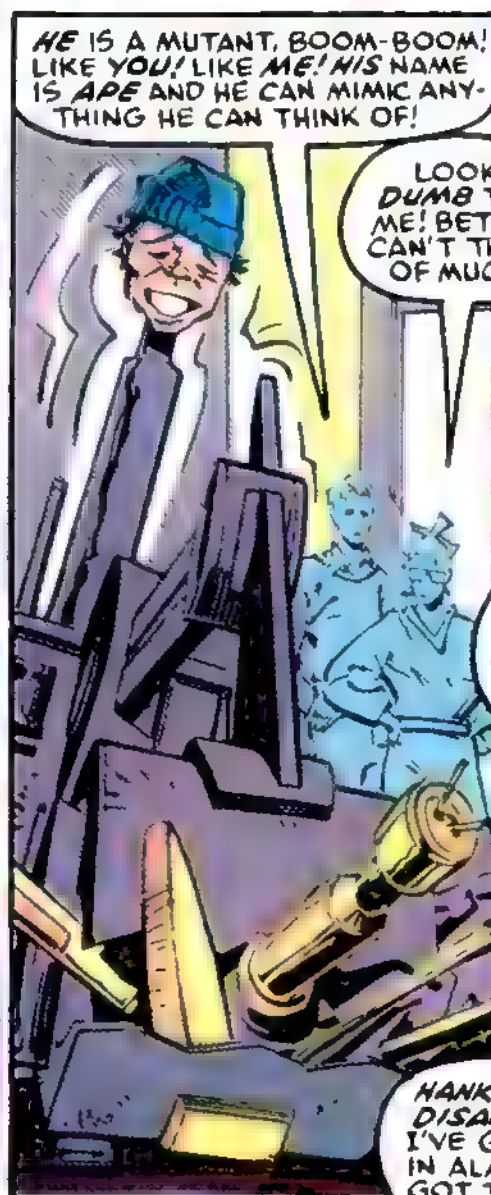
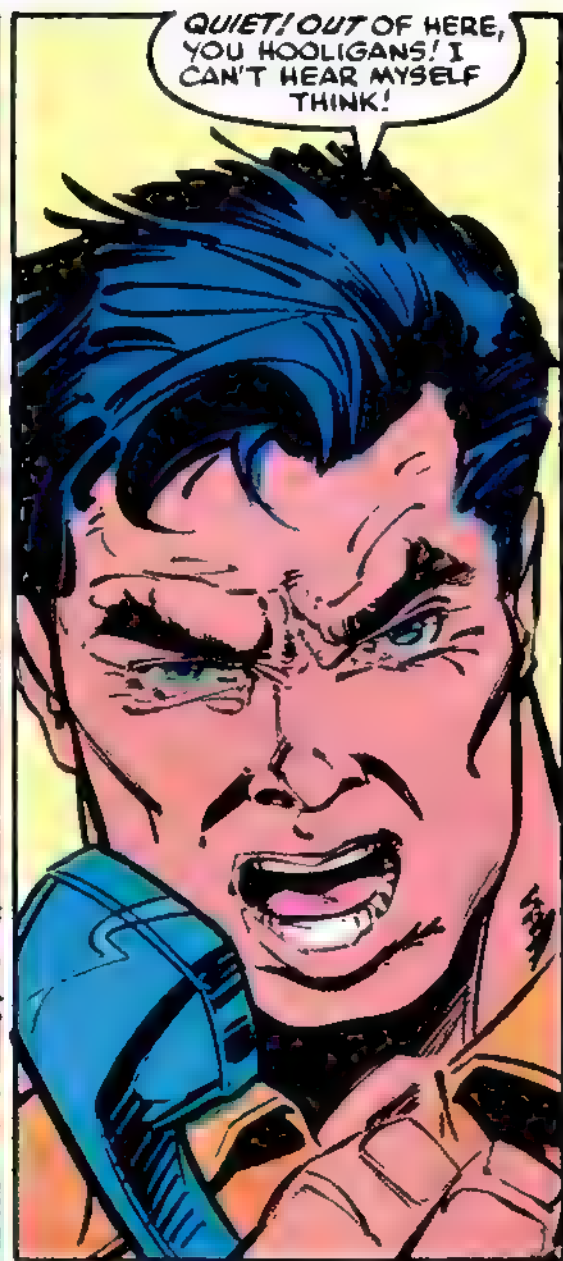
LATER, AT THE  
ANCHORAGE  
HILTON...

RING!  
RING!

HELLO--?  
MADDIE!?

OH, HANK!  
IT'S YOU! IS  
ANYTHING  
WRONG?







MEANWHILE, ON AN OFF SHORE OIL RIG IN THE BERING STRAIT...

HEY, GEORGE, DIG THE *BLIP* ON THIS SONAR! SOMETHING *HUGE* IS HEADING UP FROM THE BOTTOM!

MUCH OF THE MASTER MOLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

WHAT IS IT?

SHAPE. MEMORY. CONSCIENCE. EMPATHY. PITY. ALL GONE, BURNED AWAY IN HIS FALL FROM HEAVEN!

HOLEE--!

**CRASH!**  
**AIEEEEE!**

LANG BUILT HIM ONCE!

NOW MASTER MOLD RE-BUILDS HIMSELF...

**SHRED!**

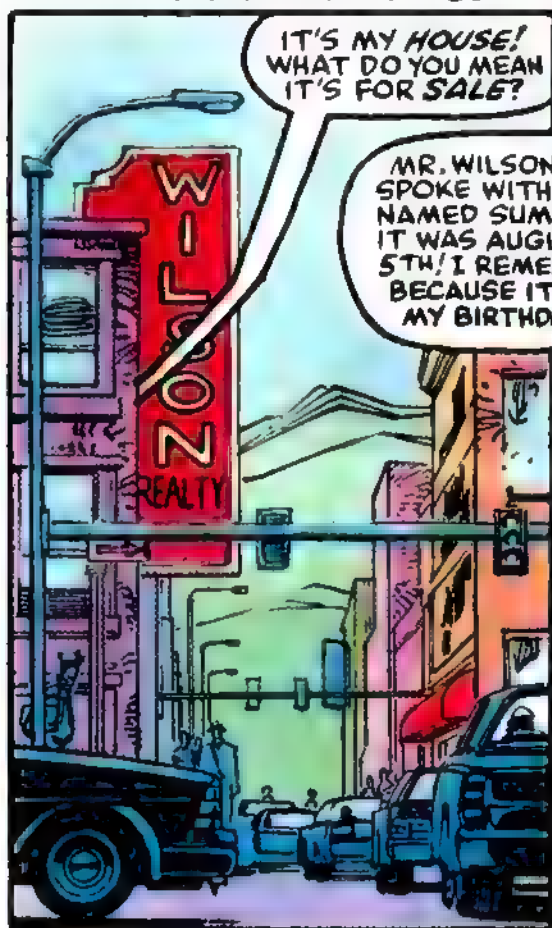
**RIP!**

**BEND!**

... FROM THE DEBRIS OF THE DESTROYED RIGGING...

... AND THE SHREDS OF KNOWLEDGE IN HIS DEMOLISHED MIND!





IT'S MY HOUSE!  
WHAT DO YOU MEAN  
IT'S FOR SALE?

MR. WILSON HIMSELF  
SPOKE WITH A MAN  
NAMED SUMMERS...  
IT WAS AUGUST THE  
5TH! I REMEMBER  
BECAUSE IT WAS  
MY BIRTHDAY!

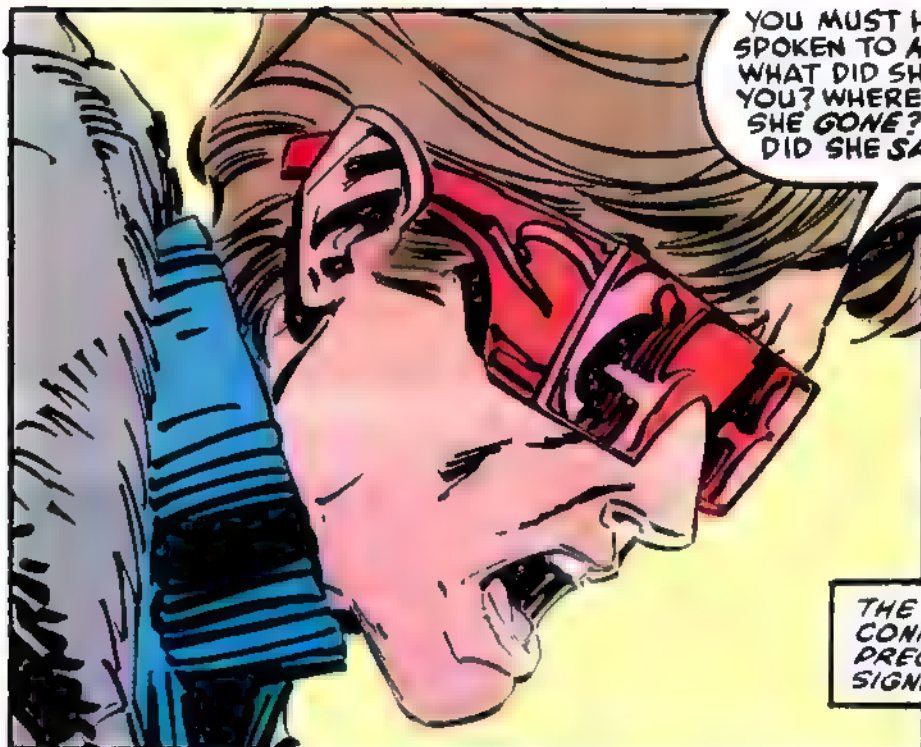


HIS PAPER WORK  
WAS IN *PERFECT*  
*ORDER*! THE HOUSE  
HAS BEEN UP FOR  
SALE SINCE THEN!

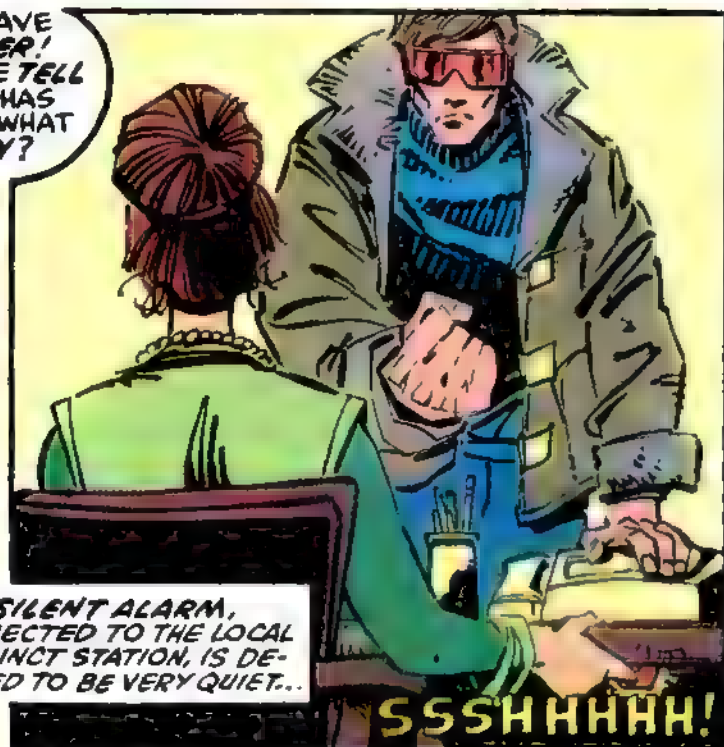
THERE'S SOME  
MISTAKE! I'M  
SCOTT SUMMERS!  
THE HOUSE IS  
*MINE*, MINE  
AND MY WIFE'S!

I'M  
SORRY,  
SIR, BUT--

AUGUST 5TH...!  
MADDIE LEFT  
THE DAY THEY  
TOLD ME JEAN  
WAS ALIVE! THE  
DAY I LEFT  
FOR NEW YORK!



YOU MUST HAVE  
SPOKEN TO *HER*!  
WHAT DID SHE *TELL*  
YOU? WHERE HAS  
SHE *GONE*? WHAT  
DID SHE SAY?



THE SILENT ALARM,  
CONNECTED TO THE LOCAL  
PRECINCT STATION, IS DE-  
SIGNATED TO BE VERY QUIET...

SSSHHHHH!



... AND VERY  
EFFECTIVE!

OFFICER  
HIGGINS!  
THANK  
HEAVEN!  
THIS  
MAN--

I HEARD HIM,  
MAM! YOU GOT  
A PROBLEM,  
BUDDY? COME  
ON DOWN TO  
THE STATION  
AND REPORT  
IT!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...



POOR GUY  
SEEMED  
REAL TORN  
UP!

YOU'D BE  
TORN UP,  
TOO, IF YOUR  
WIFE AND KID  
HAD GONE  
MISSING!

IF THEY'RE  
MISSING, CHAD!  
COMPUTERS SHOW  
NO RECORD OF  
THEM IN  
ANCHORAGE!

FRANKLY, I WONDER  
IF THEY REALLY EXIST?



THREE HUNDRED MILES FROM ANCHORAGE, THE MASTER MOLD LURCHES FROM THE WATER!

HE CAN NO LONGER FLY  
AND HE HAS NOT YET  
FOUND EQUIPMENT TO  
REPAIR THAT SYSTEM.  
NO MATTER!

HEY, MIKE! LOOK!  
THE WINDOW!  
IT'S GLOWING!

FOR NOW HE NEEDS  
INFORMATION...  
KNOWLEDGE TO RE-  
PLACE THE MEMORIES  
THAT HE LOST!

GET  
BACK!

**SKRASH!**

**AAAAIIIIII!**

HIS NEWLY CONSTRUCTED  
HAND BLASTERS ARE  
WORKING PERFECTLY!  
EXCELLENT! THEY'VE  
GAINED HIM ACCESS TO  
THE COMPUTERS!

HE REMEMBERS  
LITTLE, BUT  
HE KNOWS HIS  
FOE!

HE WILL NEED EVERY SHRED  
OF INFORMATION, EVERY  
OUNCE OF SOPHISTICATION.  
IF HE IS TO DEFEAT HIM!

MASTER MOLD  
JOINS WITH THE  
COMPUTER...

...WHICH LEADS TO OTHERS! HE DRINKS THE  
WORLD DRY OF ITS KNOWLEDGE!

...WHICH  
LEADS TO  
OTHER  
COMPUTERS...

HE IS ALMOST  
READY TO  
BEGIN!



ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. THE OFFICES OF NORTH STAR AIRWAYS...

YOU NEVER HEARD OF MADELYNE PRYOR? BUT SHE'S A TRANS-PORT PILOT HERE!

YOU'RE NEW! I WANT TO SEE PHILIP SUMMERS-- MY GRANDFATHER!

CAN'T HELP YOU, GUY! CONGLOMERATE FROM NEW YORK MADE THE PREVIOUS OWNER AN OFFER THEY COULDN'T REFUSE!

MY GRAND-PARENTS SOLD THE BUSINESS?

YEP! AUGUST 5TH! TOOK THEIR MONEY AND HEADED OFF ON A WORLD CRUISE!

NEW OWNER KICKED OUT ALL THE OLD STAFF! SAID HE WANTED TA START FRESH! GAVE 'EM BIG SEVERANCE, THOUGH!

MOST OF 'EM SCATTERED ALL OVER ALASKA BY NOW!

WHAT ABOUT SAM ROSS?

BOATING ACCIDENT! SAD THING!

ABOUT MADELYNE PRYOR--YOU GOT THE FILE DRAWER OPEN! DOUBLE CHECK-- UNDER PRYOR AND SUMMERS!

GOT A SCOTT SUMMERS HERE! BUT NOTHING UNDER PRYOR-- AND THESE FILES GO BACK! NOBODY BY THAT NAME EVER WORKED HERE!

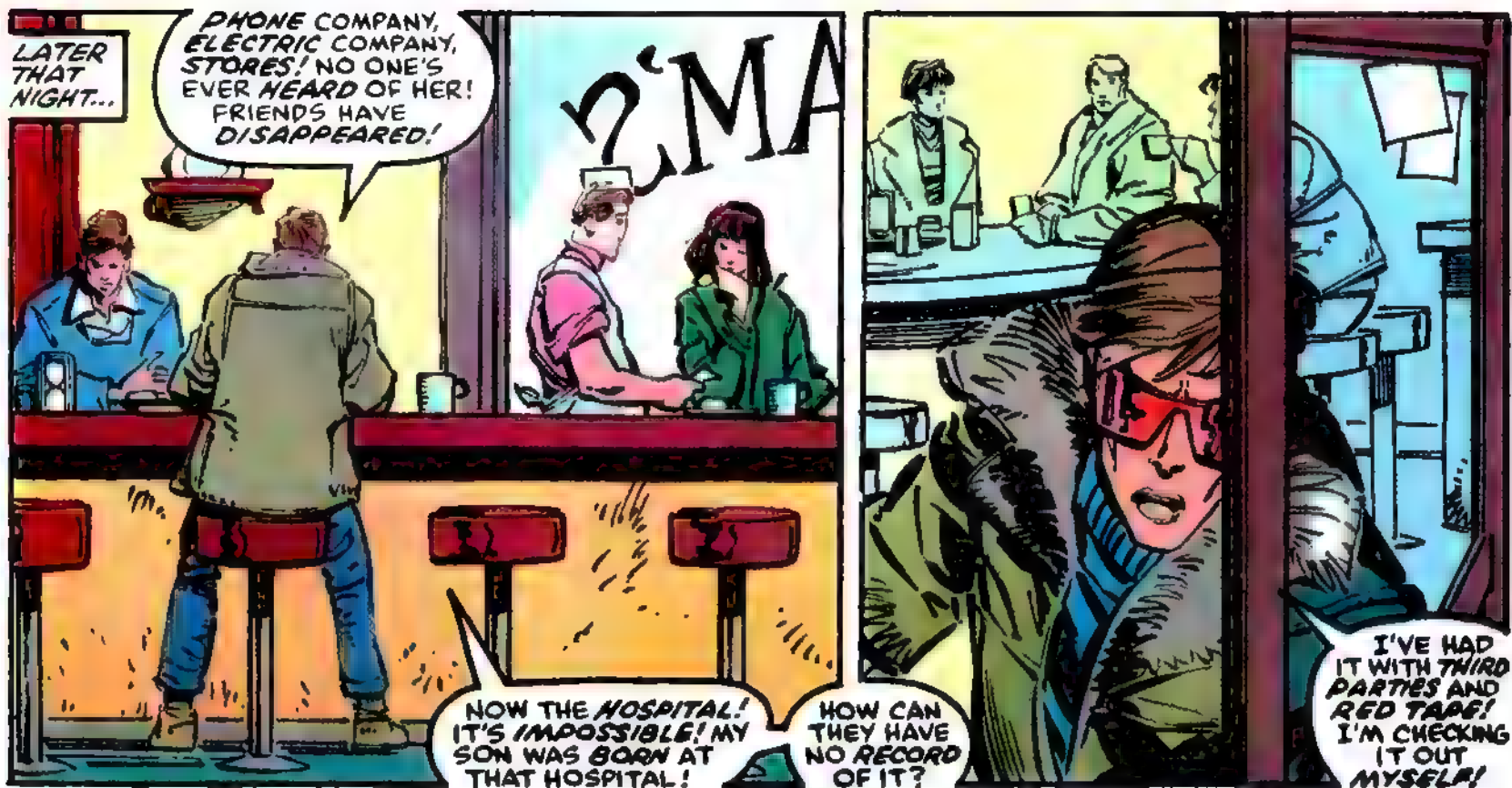
WHAT? LIAR!

HEY, JOE! GIMME A HAND!

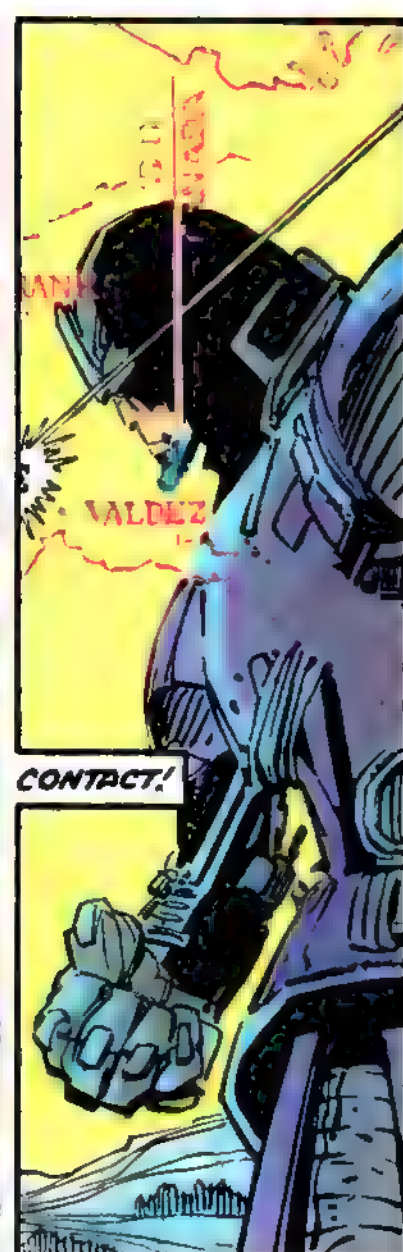
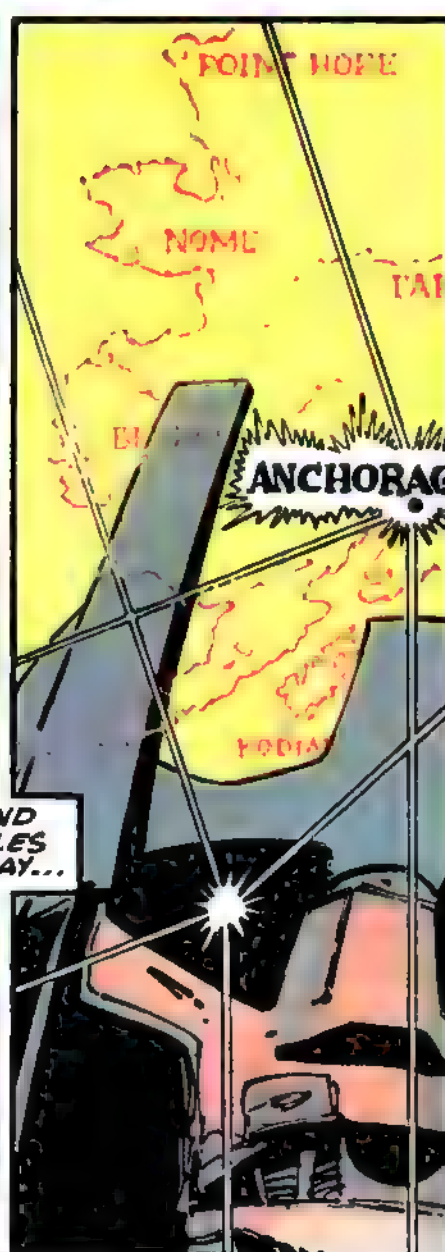
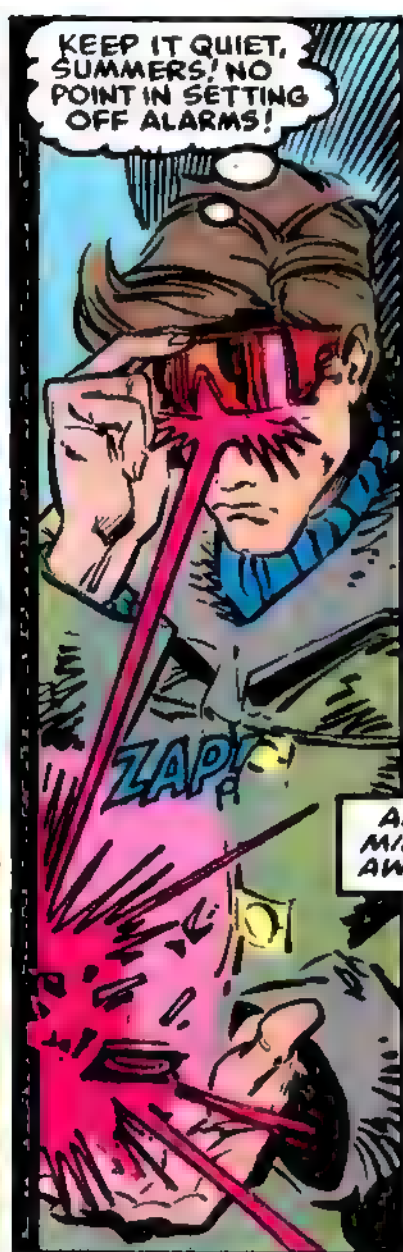
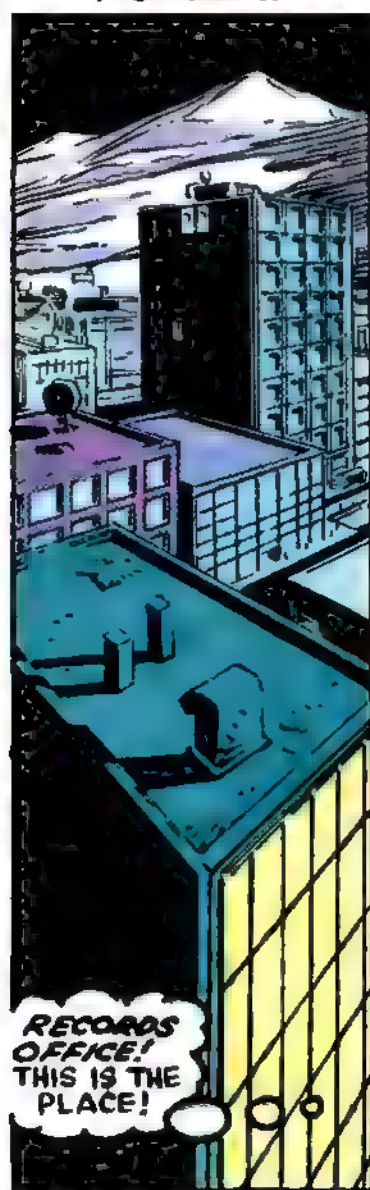
GET THIS NUT OUTTA HERE!

WHUMP!



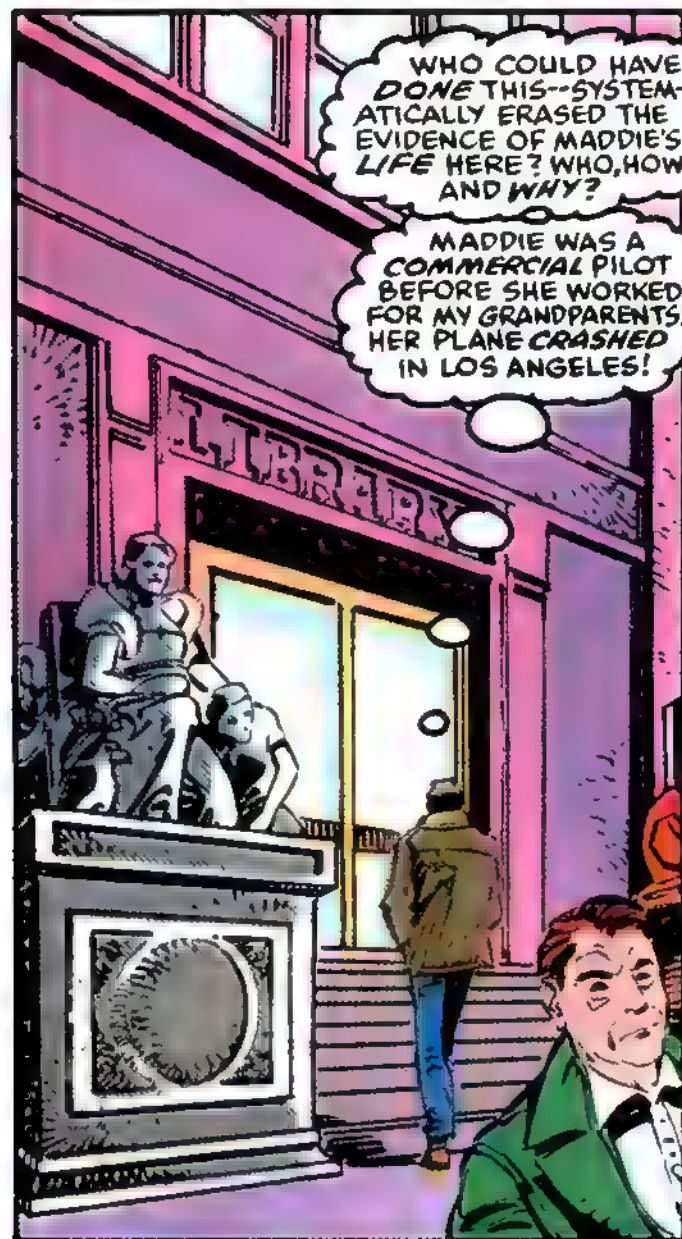


AND AT ANCHORAGE HOSPITAL...





MORNING... AFTER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT...



WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS--SYSTEMATICALLY ERASED THE EVIDENCE OF MADDIE'S LIFE HERE? WHO, HOW AND WHY?

MADDIE WAS A COMMERCIAL PILOT BEFORE SHE WORKED FOR MY GRANDPARENTS! HER PLANE CRASHED IN LOS ANGELES!

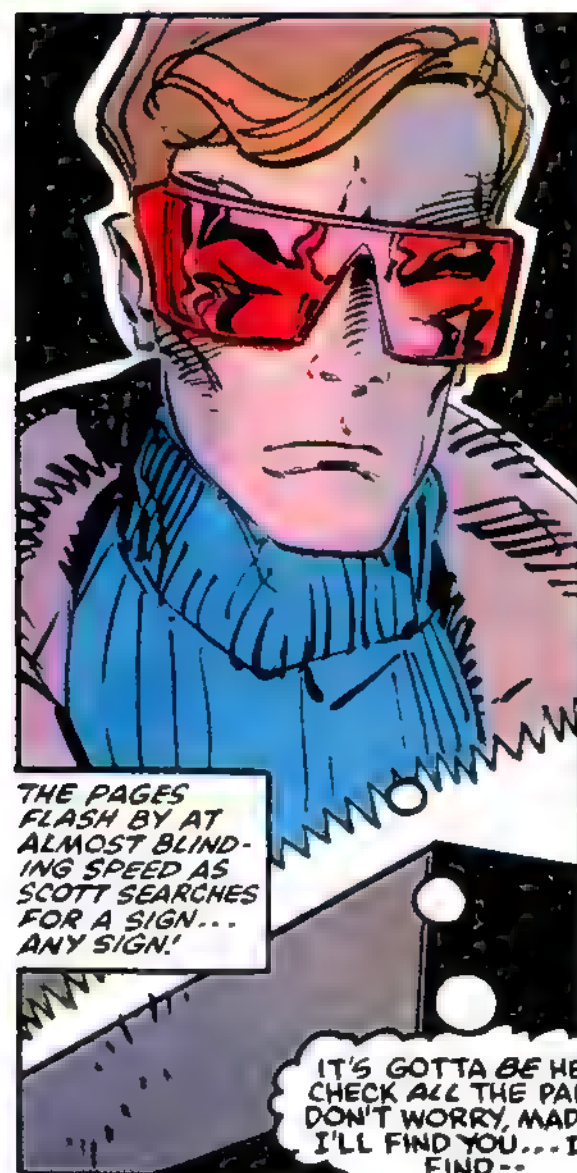
THAT WAS IN THE PAPERS, SURELY! I'LL CHECK THE MICROFILM OF THE L.A. TIMES!

SEPTEMBER 1! THERE'S THE CRASH-- BUT NOTHING ABOUT MADDIE!



SHE SAID SHE WALKED FROM THE FLAMES, THE SOLE SURVIVOR, WITHOUT A SCRATCH!

THAT WOULD HAVE MADE THE PAPERS... IT DID MAKE THE PAPERS... DIDN'T IT?



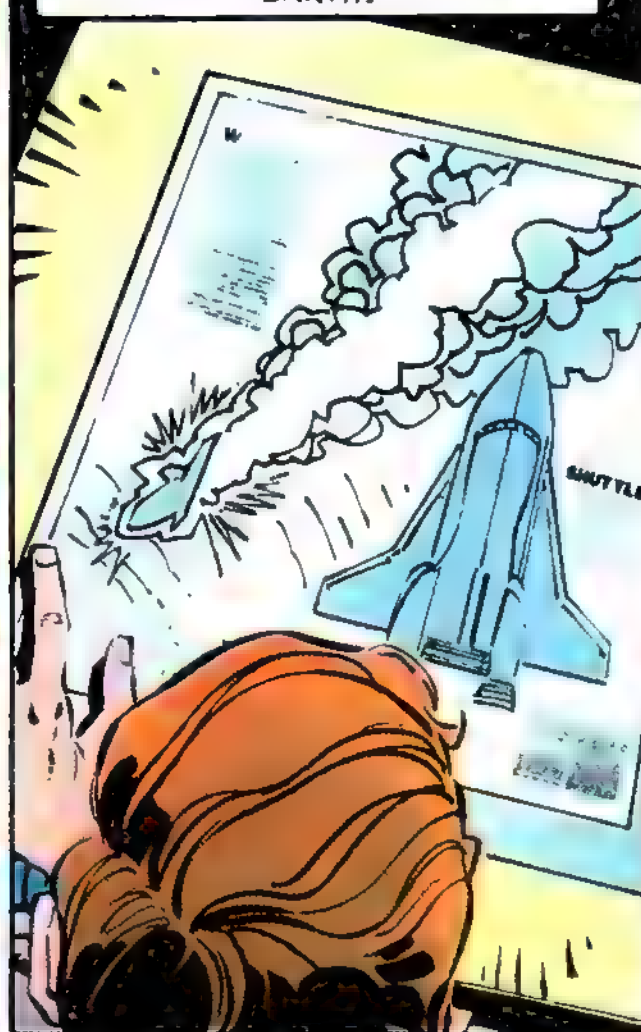
THE PAGES FLASH BY AT ALMOST BLINDING SPEED AS SCOTT SEARCHES FOR A SIGN... ANY SIGN!

IT'S GOTTA BE HERE! CHECK ALL THE PAPERS! DON'T WORRY, MADDIE. I'LL FIND YOU... I'LL FIND--



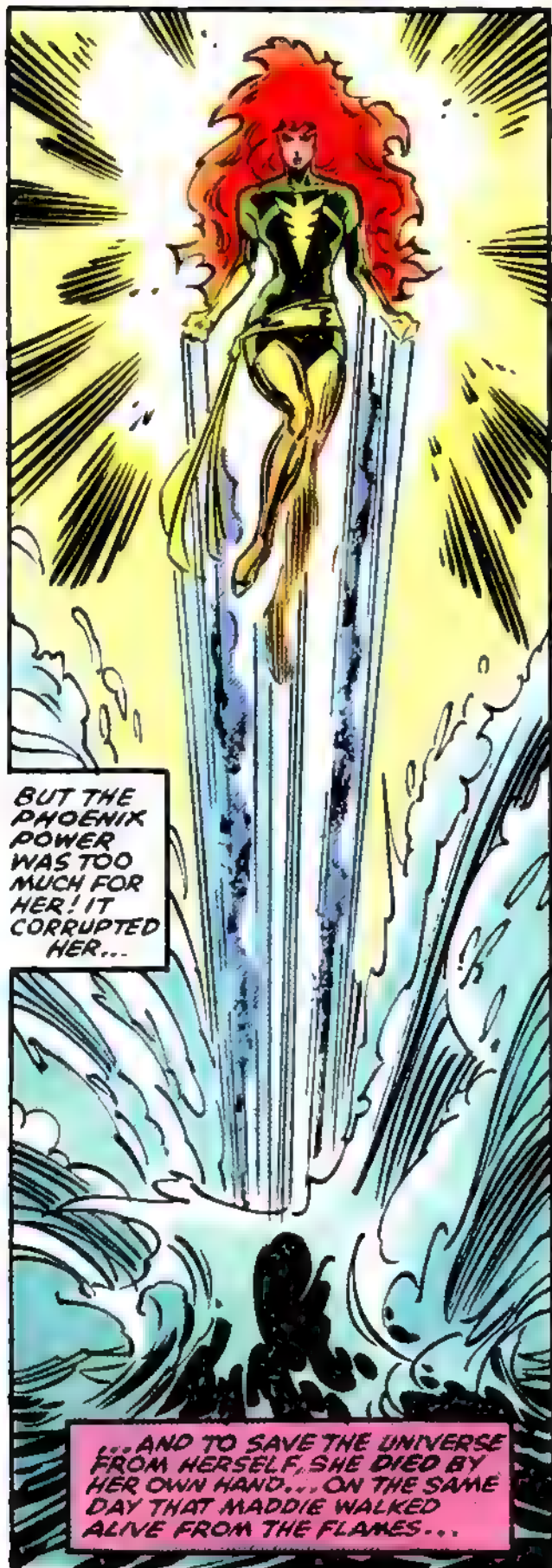
JEAN!

THERE, ON THE VIEWER-- ANOTHER CRASH... THE WRECKED, FLAMING STARCORE 1 PLUMMETING TOWARD EARTH!





JEAN SAVED HER TEAM MATES, WALKED AWAY HERSELF FROM THAT ONE WITHOUT A SCRATCH--WALKED AWAY TRANSFORMED --AS THE PHOENIX!



BUT THE PHOENIX POWER WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER! IT CORRUPTED HER...

...AND TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM HERSELF, SHE DIED BY HER OWN HAND... ON THE SAME DAY THAT MADDIE WALKED ALIVE FROM THE FLAMES...

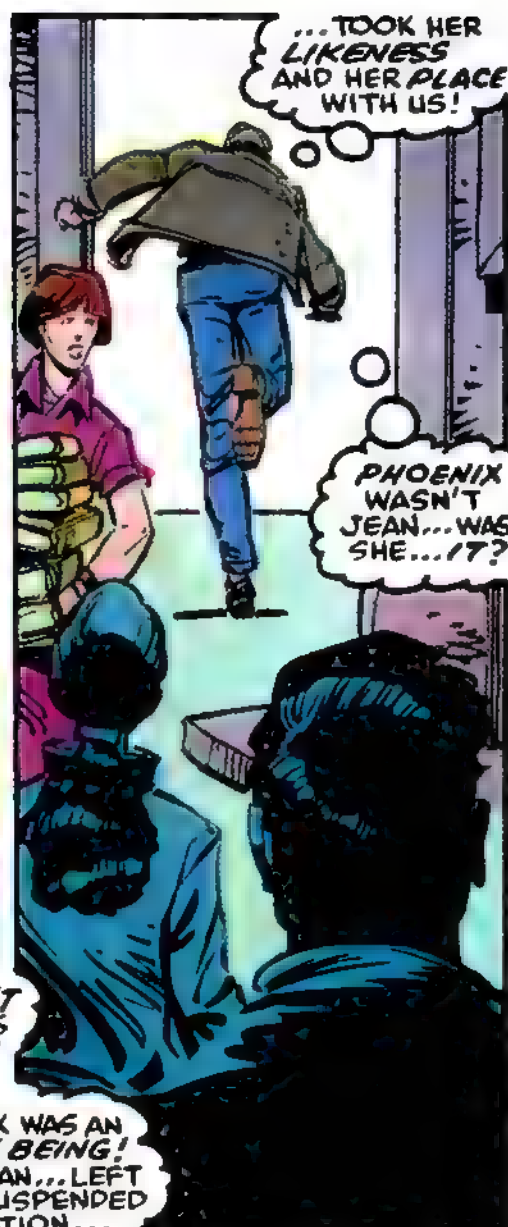


...IF SHE WALKED AWAY!

I COULDN'T STOP JEAN THEN... COULDN'T SAVE HER! LIKE MADDIE...

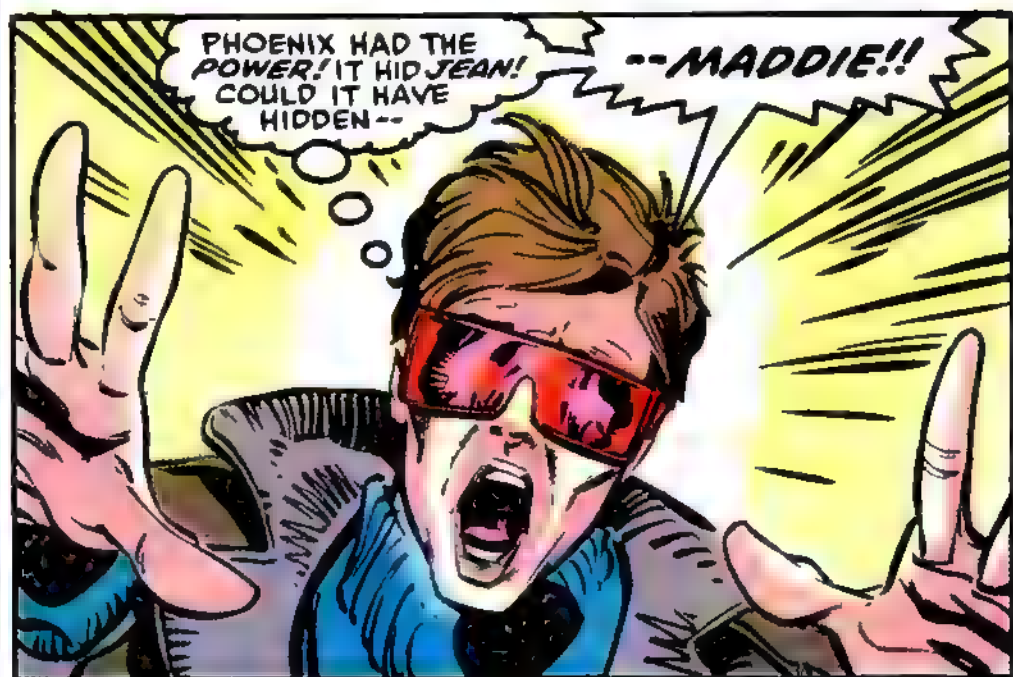
BUT-- JEAN DIDN'T DIE, DID SHE? IT WAS NEVER REALLY JEAN WHO DIED, AT ALL!

PHOENIX WAS AN ENERGY BEING! IT HID JEAN... LEFT HER IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION...



...TOOK HER LIKENESS AND HER PLACE WITH US!

PHOENIX WASN'T JEAN... WAS SHE...? IT?



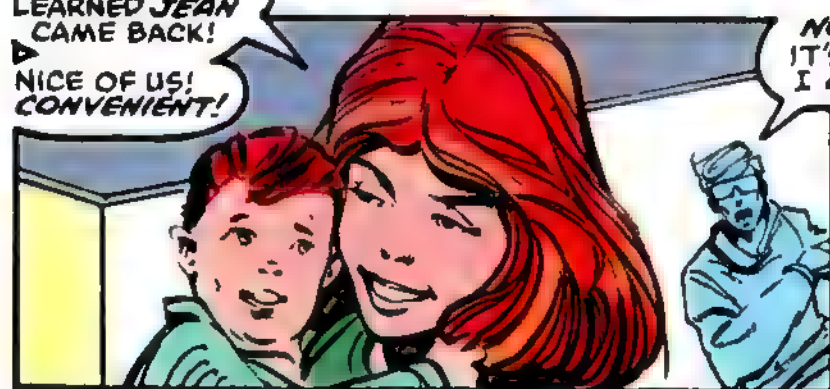
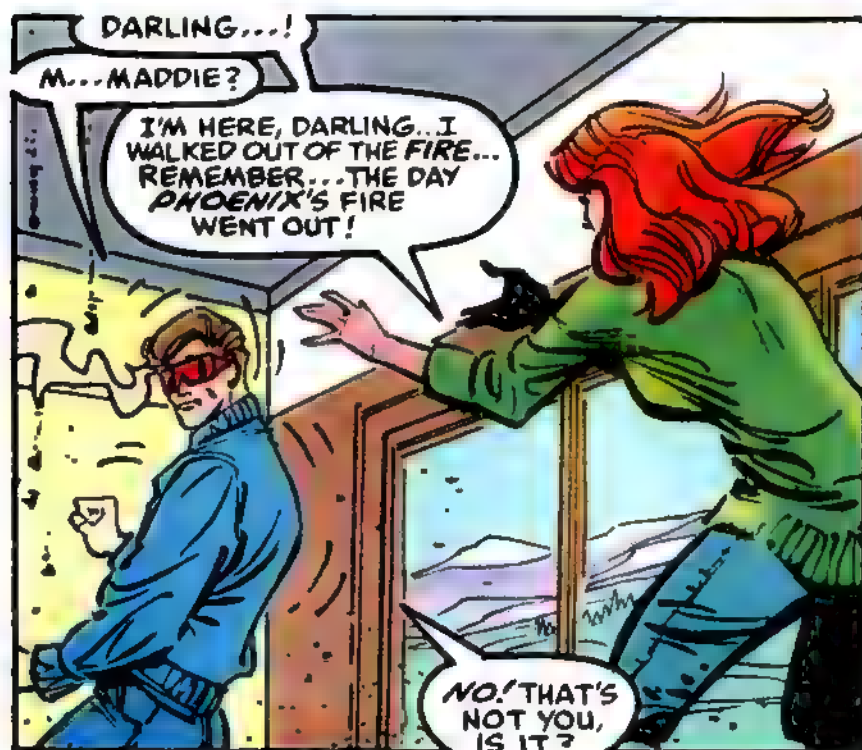
PHOENIX HAD THE POWER! IT HID JEAN! COULD IT HAVE HIDDEN--

--MADDIE!!



HOURS LATER, AT THE HOUSE THAT ONCE BELONGED TO SCOTT AND MADDIE SUMMERS...







# BULLPEN BULLETINS

About ten years ago, a lawyer friend of mine told me that I could sue DC Comics for a million dollars or more. The lawyer, a lady who'd worked in the comics business for many years, had discovered that I'd started writing professionally for DC Comics in 1965 when I was thirteen years old, and had written many dozens of stories for DC's top-selling titles while I was between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. Because I was a minor, she said, the legal agreements that I'd signed granting DC ownership of the stories I'd written and the characters I'd created (two of which were featured in their own series) were meaningless. She told me that I owned those stories, and would be entitled to all the income DC had received from licensing them for publication worldwide, or statutory copyright damages, whichever was greater. She said the case was airtight, and urged me to pursue it.

I never even considered it for a moment.

You see, I'd been offered the same deal as everybody else in comics in those days, and, minor or not, I'd understood it perfectly. Moreover, I'd agreed to it *enthusiastically*—thrilled to have the chance to write comics, and very glad to be paid what I was paid, because my family needed that money.

It wouldn't be right to go back on the deal.

Recently, a reporter from Phoenix asked me, "Do you think your comics provide good role models for your younger readers?" That's a pretty standard question, and I

gave it the standard answer—that providing good role models is not our goal. We don't try to preach morals or values—business, we feel, best left to parents and educators. We're entertainers. Our business is telling good stories.

He seemed happy with that answer, and the interview moved on. Since then, however, I've given that subject more thought. The fact is that a good story must leave the reader with something more than he started with—a thought, an idea, an insight... What thoughts, ideas and insights were conveyed to me when I was a reader?

*The Amazing Spider-Man* was my favorite title back then. I identified with Peter Parker, because he and his Aunt May had money troubles just like my family did. Often his need was desperate, and he was faced with a choice between doing the self-serving, expedient thing and doing the *right* thing. He wasn't a paragon. Once or twice he slipped. Hey, he was only human. But, you know, I could tell that he learned from his mistakes, and in the end, when it counted, he always chose to do the *right* thing.

My lawyer friend's name came up in conversation the other day, reminding me of my choice not to sue DC. It occurred to me then that Peter Parker wouldn't have done it either.

Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief

## CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAKOTA NORTH #5
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #239
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #3
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #48—Vs. the Sentinels of the future!
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #3—Their first mission against the Horde!
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #23
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #17
- ☐ COMET MAN (Limited Series) #1—Dr. Stephen Beckley discovers the secret of Halley's Comet—and it destroys him! This incredible space adventure could have been created only by someone who's been there! Created and written by BILL ("Lost in Space") MUMY and MIGUEL FERRARI. Art by KELLY JONES and GERRY TALAOCI.
- ☐ CONAN ANNUAL #10
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #43
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #285—With the Punisher and Hobgoblin!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #326
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #81—Introducing Rintahl!
- ☐ G.I. JOE AND TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2—Cobra and the Decepticons become allies!
- ☐ POWER PACK #28—A visit to Avengers Mansion!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #1—Has Reed Richards betrayed the FF? What's he doing with the X-Men? And now will he betray them, too? Find out in this 4-issue Limited Series by CHRIS CLAREMONT (writer) with JON BOGDANOVE and TERRY AUSTIN (artists)!
- ☐ AVENGERS #276—The Masters of Evil!
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #191
- ☐ G.I. JOE #56
- ☐ HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #328
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #196—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up* #62 by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
- ☐ THE 'NAM #3—Off to Saigon on a "Three Day Pass" Story by Vietnam vet DOUG MURRAY. Art by MICHAEL GOLDEN and ARMANDO GIL.
- ☐ X-MEN #214—The aftermath of the Mutant

- Massacre by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!
- ☐ MARVEL SAGA #16—The origins of Hawkeye and Wonder Man! The Avengers vs. Kang! Spidey meets Daredevil And more!
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1—In East Berlin, Spidey finds out that spies play for keeps! But there's someone even more deadly—Wolverine! Written by JIM OWSLEY! Art by MARK BRIGHT and AL WILLIAMSON!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #299
- ☐ IRON MAN #215—DAVID MICHELINIE and BOB LAYTON are back! And they got MARK BRIGHT with them!
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #123—With the Black Cat!
- ☐ THOR #378—A bone-breaking battle with the Absorbing Man!
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #25
- ☐ X-FACTOR #13—Cyclops battles a Sentinel!
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #6—Reprinting *X-Men* #98, with new material by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON.
- ☐ G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE (Limited Series) #4—Also known as "G.I. Joe Universe!"
- ☐ G.I. JOE DIGEST #2

### MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ MARVEL AGE #47—The only place to go for info about everything you see here! Plus, behind the scenes at the New Universe!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #132

### EPC COMICS

- ☐ MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #11—The true tale of Ira's origin!
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #24
- ☐ ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #5—Elektra and Garrett take on SHIELD and Washington, D.C. By FRANK MILLER and BILL SIENKIEWICZ.
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #17—Under suspicion of murder!
- ☐ ELFQUEST #18
- ☐ STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #3—The latest and the greatest!

### STAR COMICS

- ☐ HUGGA BUNCH #3—The Huglets disappear!
- ☐ THUNDERCATS #8
- ☐ ANIMAX #2—X-Tincto and the Motor Mutants lay siege to the city of Animax!
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #141
- ☐ DROIDS #6—Guest-starring the entire "Star Wars" crew!
- ☐ POPPLES #2
- ☐ TOP DOG #12—Speechless!
- ☐ STAR DIGEST #2—With Heathcliff, Top Dog, Care Bears and more!

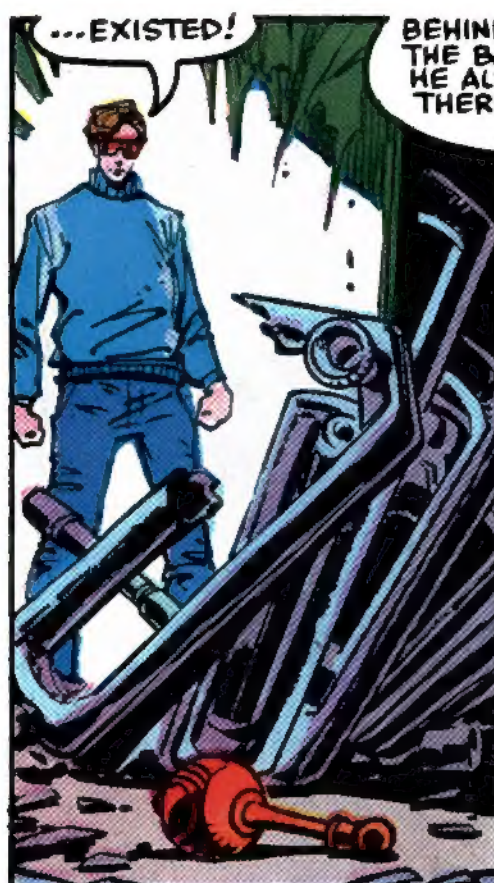
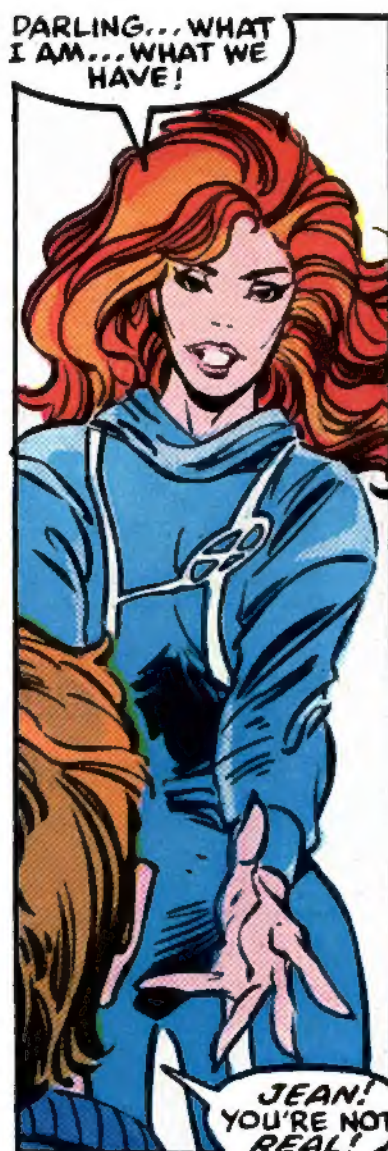
### NEW UNIVERSE

- ☐ NIGHT MASK #4—She's stunning and deadly! She's Mistress Twilight! Night Mask must resist her... but can he?
- ☐ PSI FORCE #4—Kathy goes home... with incredible consequences!
- ☐ KICKERS, INC. #4—They fight dirty 'cause they're the Fiat, and they're after Jack's head!
- ☐ MERC #4—Hazzard faces criminal charges as a result of the Philadelphia Debacle!
- ☐ D.P. 7 #4—The Displaced Paranormals find their lives in jeopardy when they cross paths with the "Wompos!"
- ☐ JUSTICE #4—Out on Exlt 14, life gets tougher for Justice on our world... as we learn more about Justice's home world!
- ☐ STAR BRAND #5—A Mediterranean dictator has threatened drastic consequences for anyone who crosses his Line of Death! Enter Star Brand...!
- ☐ SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLE-SHOOTERS #5—Star Brand must fight Spitfire, and the life of a Troubleshooter hangs in the balance!

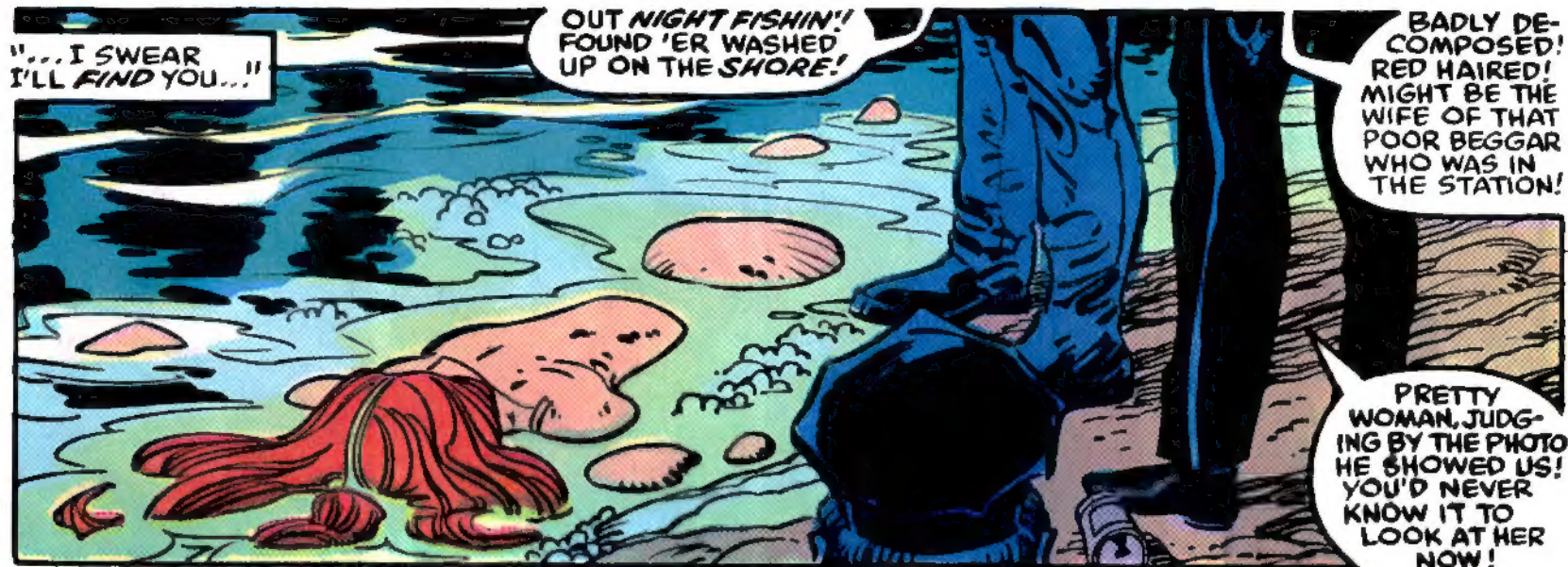
### GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ ALIEN LEGION: A GREY DAY TO DIE—It's a story so dangerous that it had to be told in a Graphic Novel! The Legionnaires face their deadliest task! The world's on the brink of annihilation! And Death is on the prowl! Written by CARL POTTS and ALAN ZELENETZ. Art by FRANK CIROCCO and TERRY AUSTIN.









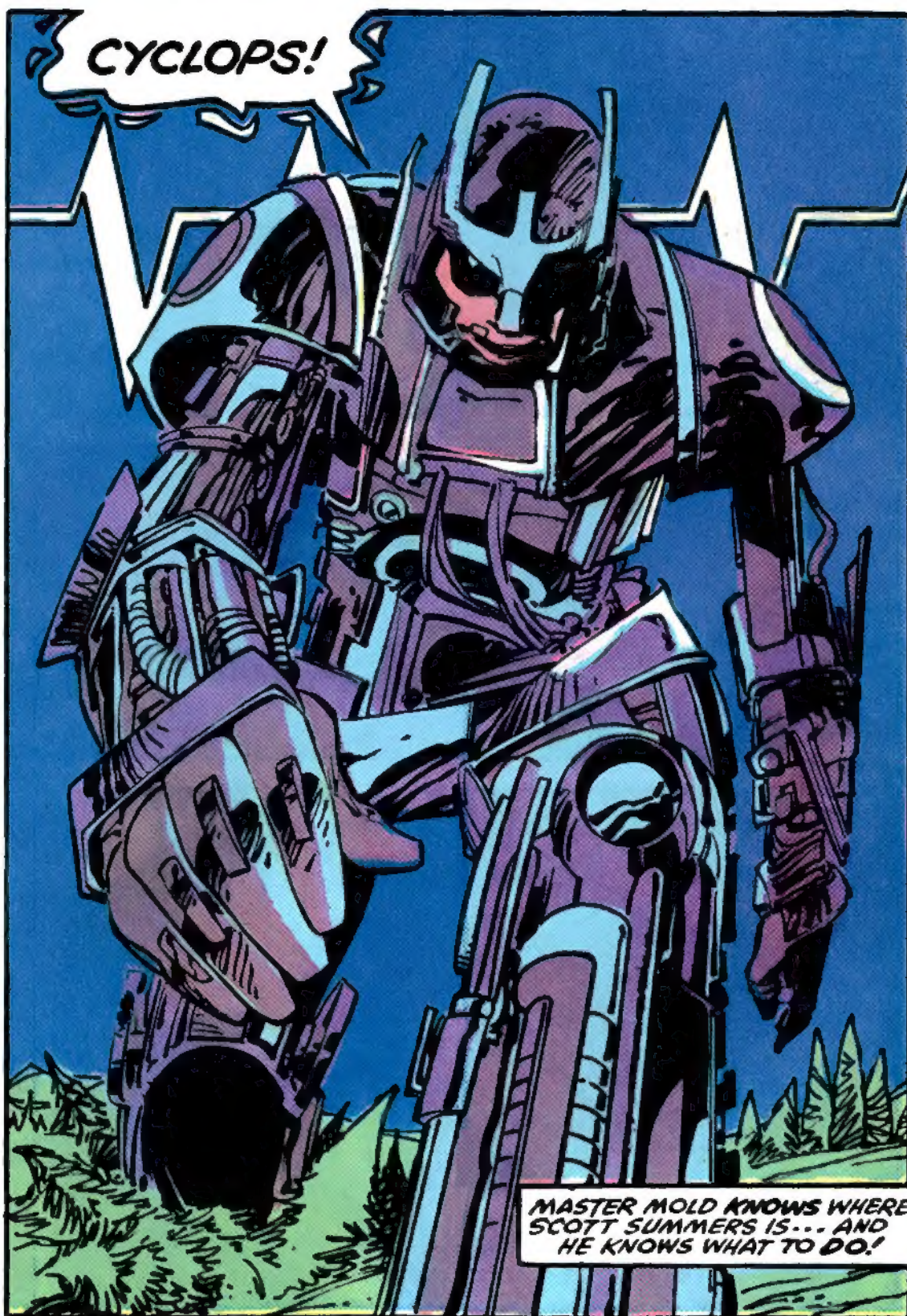
"... I SWEAR  
I'LL FIND YOU..."

OUT NIGHT FISHIN'!  
FOUND 'ER WASHED  
UP ON THE SHORE!

BADLY DE-  
COMPOSED!  
RED HAIR!  
MIGHT BE THE  
WIFE OF THAT  
POOR BEGGAR  
WHO WAS IN  
THE STATION!

PRETTY  
WOMAN, JUDG-  
ING BY THE PHOTO  
HE SHOWED US!  
YOU'D NEVER  
KNOW IT TO  
LOOK AT HER  
NOW!

AND SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE  
FROZEN HEART OF THE NIGHT,  
THE MASTER MOLD LOCKS  
ONTO FINAL APPROACH...



CYCLOPS!

MASTER MOLD KNOWS WHERE  
SCOTT SUMMERS IS... AND  
HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO!

NEXT ISSUE: **CYCLOPS** FACES HIS **DEADLIEST FOE!**  
AN **EPIC BATTLE**, ALMOST **TOO BIG** FOR MERE COMIC  
BOOK PAGES TO CONTAIN!



# X-CHANGES

BOB HARRAS: editor - BOBBIE CHASE: assistant editor

MARVEL COMICS GROUP - 387 Park Avenue South - New York, New York - 10016  
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Louise, Terry, Joe, Joe, Petra,  
and Bob,

X-FACTOR is surely the best issue to date. Action from start to finish! X-FACTOR has grown to become one of the best Marvel comics ever.

Are they really accomplishing anything good, though? They are fueling the fires of hatred for mutants by advertising that mutants "plan to destroy the very lives of us normal people" and with X-Factor around "you don't have to live in fear anymore!" This tells people that they should live in fear of mutants! Jean complained early on that mutants were hated, and it shouldn't be like that. Is she so blind that she can't see that she's supporting that very fear and hate? And how could anyone stand to be adored by crowds who love them because they pretend to want to eliminate the beings that they really are? Who could stand to hear their kind called "inhuman monsters" while they pretend to hate their own kind? And whose idea is all this? Why, Cameron Hodge's, a man I have come to distrust. If he was truly the good friend he pretends to be, he wouldn't have shuffled Artie off like he did. I feel the idea behind X-Factor is wrong and, since the X-Men are sure to feel the same way, the cross-overs with their book should prove interesting.

"The Marvel Mutant Massacre Map?" "New X-Men?" "Fate Of The Angel?" Interesting, to say the least. Till next month . . .

Michael J. Robbins  
3590 Clubheights Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Dear X-FACTOR,

Congratulations on this title! I have decided to collect this book because I like the stories and the ideas of X-FACTOR.

Oh, well, now on to the story in your ninth issue—it was great! I was glad to see someone actually beat Freedom Force. Even the X-Men were almost defeated by them in issue #206 of their title. That must mean that the original X-Men are more powerful than the present team. Why is Cameron Hodge always pushing either Artie or Rusty out of his office? I don't really like him that much. Give Artie my praise on his drawing of Rusty and Skids.

Since X-Factor, or, the X-Terminators are going to search for Artie, that better not mean there's going to be a death in the new team. It wouldn't seem right to see someone die at this time.

Keep up the good work!

Voltaire Garcia  
2015 Paradise Hills Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92114

Dear Sirs,

The scenes of the "Mutant panic" in X-FACTOR #9 were terrifying! Our reality is getting closer to Rachel's (Phoenix's) alternate future. Would you guys be planning for our society a place where super heroes would be risking their lives just to be in costume in a few years?

Whatever you have planned, I am sure it's going to rock the Marvel Universe. The

"Mutant Massacre" is going to be Marvel's best storyline of the year! The ramifications of this incident will truly be overwhelming. Will this lead to limited freedom for all super beings?

In order to try and avoid this situation, X-Factor is going to have to change their tactics and advertising campaign. Their current tactics are stirring up a hornet's nest. They should re-phrase their signs and billboards—not to mention keep a closer eye on Cameron Hodge. I don't trust him. He might be a mole for the government, S.H.I.E.L.D. or some other organization.

In closing, I am very happy that you changed Marvel Girl's mask. The old mask covered too much of Jean's beautiful red-orange hair. She looks much more striking this way.

Continue the excellent work!

Jim Ficken  
Rt. 1, Box 59E  
Wrenshall, MN 55797

Boy, Cameron Hodge certainly seems to be rubbing everyone the wrong way these days, doesn't he? (As opposed to Jean's new mask, which got rave reviews from absolutely everybody who mentioned it!)

Dear X-Changes,

Freedom Force is getting annoying! Trash 'em already, X-Terminators!

X-FACTOR #9 was a milestone in the series—Scott is guilty over Rusty, Rusty finds a woman, and, best of all, Artie meets Leech and gets a code-name, Big Eyes!

Thank you for this revelation of a series!

Peter O'Keefe  
642 39th St.  
Brooklyn, New York 11232

Wait a minute, Peter, who said anything about an official code-name—Big Eyes was just intended as an affectionate nickname. But what does the rest of Marvel-dom Assembled think about it?

Dear X-Perts,

I've collected X-FACTOR since issue #1 and I've never seen anything as funny as page 23 of issue #9, panel 5 and 6! Is it me or (hee hee hee) is th-the Blob (ha ha ha ha) w-wearing g-glasses? Ha ha ha ha ho ho ho ho ho ho hee hee hee hee hee hee giggle giggle chuckle haw haw haw haw haw haw ha ha ha ha ha . . . (gasp)

Hee hee hee hee . . .

George A. Kolcun  
14 Franklin Terrace  
South Orange, NJ 07079

To Whom It May Concern,

X-FACTOR ANNUAL #1 was X-cellent! Ever since Gremlin, Darkstar, Vanguard, Ursa Major, and Seraph first appeared, I realized that Russia had its own mutants, but X-FACTOR ANNUAL #1 confirmed that the Mutants in Russia, except for a select few, were treated no better than in any other country. Seeing Father Garloff, Mentac, Concussion, Iron Curtain, and Siberian Tiger made me realize that you should reconsider doing a series about Russian

Mutants alone—and, perhaps later on, you could expand it to include Mutants from other lands. Some of these have appeared in other comics but just have never received the sort of detailed stories, discussing their origins and abilities, that they deserved. Personally, the Russian Mutants featured in X-FACTOR ANNUAL #1 only whetted my appetite for more. And I do hope to learn more about Russian Mutants. It was great to see the Crimson Dynamo again. He seems to have grown, both in size and power. I hope it won't be long before I see him again. Perhaps the upcoming Mutant Massacre will bring into focus some Mutants who have remained in the shadows until now.

John W. Migala  
17425 Randall Avenue  
Fontana, CA 92335

Dear X-Crew,

I've just read X-FACTOR ANNUAL #1 and I loved it! It was great watching the Angel, my favorite member, take out those choppers. I would have liked to see him in his normal costume, though. The Russian Mutants were really neat (especially the Siberian Tiger)! I hope to see more of them in future issues of X-FACTOR. I really enjoyed Iceman's fight with the Doppelganger, Dr. Heinrich. He really showed his stuff!

I think that the Crimson Dynamo should have been destroyed—he's too invincible. Do you really think it was a good idea for Heinrich to escape, alive? Someone who knows X-Factor's secret identities could expose the team and ruin them forever. I hope the next time they meet, X-Factor takes care of him for good. Someone as dangerous and diabolical as Dr. Heinrich is a bad person to have running around loose.

Finally, I must point out the one big mistake you made. Because this issue was so good, I don't think any of the future X-FACTOR ANNUALS will be able to cut the cake! Until next time . . .

Bronson Ives  
Bountiful, UT

Dear X-FACTOR,

I love your comic! I collect 7 comics (all Marvel, of course) and X-FACTOR is my favorite—I haven't missed an issue and I don't plan to.

I just picked up X-FACTOR ANNUAL #1. I've read it at least ten times already, and each time it was as great as the first. Angel's new costume is awesome! Will he be wearing it in the future issues? Who created the Doppelganger? Another thing, will we be seeing more of the Holy Ghost, Concussion, Mentac, Iron Curtain, and Siberian Tiger (he's my favorite)? Maybe you could have them join X-Factor.

Matt Tuerk  
1300 30th St. D5-13  
Boulder, CO 80303

Although they probably won't be joining X-Factor (at least in the near future), the Russian Mutants will be back, Matt. As a matter of fact, after the response we got to their initial appearance, we wouldn't be surprised if this led to much bigger and better things for them. (Television, movies, and if our public demanded it, maybe even a whole new Marvel comic series starring none-other-than the Siberian Tiger.)

As for the Angel's new costume, Warren will probably wear it again when he's on a mission that requires stealth (since it worked so well the first time). Both the new costume and the Doppelganger were developed by Bob Layton—co-creator of X-FACTOR itself!



# MINUTEMEN



## STREET BOY